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## One week after the Naharayim killings

News in Focus



## Babes on the beach

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## Special Purim humor issue

The Magazine

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## Weizman, US back PM's proposal

By BATSHEVA TSUR, HILLEL KUTLER, and news agencies

President Ezer Weizman yesterday came out in support of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to accelerate final status talks with the Palestinians.

### Peres says PM's move is doomed to fail, Page 2

Speaking on his return to Beit Hanassi from Hadassah University Hospital at Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, where he was treated for a fractured hip and arm, Weizman said: "I fully support going for a final agreement. I hope the Palestinians will understand that this is the best way ... With Egypt, with whom we had the worst wars and the biggest arguments, it took us 16 months until we reached a final agreement. There are too many problems with a phased agreement. With a final agreement, there is one huge headache and then you reach an agreement directly."

Weizman also said that a national unity government is "a good idea." The president, who is using a cane to help him get around, will gradually be returning to his regular duties.

Continued on Page 14

## US rabbi launches 'Shabbat across America'

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK - With a foot-tapping jingle, an unconventional Orthodox rabbi is launching a marketing blitz to get a half-million American Jews to celebrate Shabbat "yiddle by yiddle."

Rabbi Ephraim Buchwald, director of the National Jewish Outreach Program, has signed up 460 (and counting) Reform, Conservative, Reconstructionist, and Orthodox synagogues to sponsor "Shabbat Across America."

Buchwald started a pull-'em-in Shabbat program in 1980 on New York's Upper West Side, at the Lincoln Square Synagogue, where Shlomo Riskin, now of Efrat, was the rabbi. It was called "Turn Friday Night into Shabbos."

"In those days, Shabbos was a nice nostalgic word, but there's no

Continued on Page 18

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Friday	6:30 p.m.	7:28 p.m.



An IDF soldier lobbs a tear gas grenade at stonethrowing Palestinian demonstrators near Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem yesterday. (Brian Hentler)

## Technion satellite set for summer

By DAVID RUDGE

The Technion's second attempt to launch its student-built satellite, TechSat 2, into space aboard a Russian rocket is set for this summer.

The first effort, in March 1995, ended in bitter disappointment when the fourth stage of the converted Russian SS-25 ballistic missile failed to ignite and the rocket crashed into the sea.

This time, however, experts are optimistic that the launch, aboard a Russian-built, three-stage space rocket known as the Zenith, will be successful.

More than three years of work, including the construction of an artificial laboratory model that recreates the atmosphere of space and the magnetic pull of Earth, went into the construction of the first satellite, at a cost of over \$3.5 million.

Since the loss of the TechSat 1, students, aided by experts from leading Israeli high-tech companies, have painstakingly reconstructed a new satellite.

The new model also is what is

Continued on Page 18

# Capital braces for violence

By JON IMMANUEL, ELLI WOLGELERENTER and news agencies

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday he had been warned of plans for Palestinian violence today in the Jerusalem area, after several dozen Palestinian youths hurled rocks at soldiers guarding Rachel's Tomb outside Bethlehem.

The army is to rely heavily on cooperation by the Palestinian Police to prevent potential rioters from clashing directly with soldiers today.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan has spoken of "separation zones" to avoid the confrontations of last September. But West Bank commander Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ophir said that "in most places cooperation [with the Palestinian Police] is at a lower level than formerly."

Soldiers and border policemen fired tear gas during some three hours of low-key rioting in Bethlehem yesterday. Palestinian policemen at first held back the protesters, but they still approached the barbed wire barricade near the tomb, breathing tear gas fumes which mixed with the black smoke of burning tires.

"We have information the Palestinians will try during or after prayers to encourage violence," Mordechai said to reporters during a tour of Har Homa. "And confrontations in Bethlehem do not help anyone," he added.

Earlier he had visited Rachel's Tomb and flown to Gaza to inspect Dahaniya Airport, which "will be ready tomorrow" to allow Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to fly to Pakistan on Sunday. Palestinians have said they do not consider personal gestures to Arafat as a reason to moderate their behavior.

The rioting started inside Bethlehem as youths stoned a tourist bus. The IDF closed the town to tourists and Israelis and evacuated Jewish worshippers from Rachel's Tomb as the youths approached the limit of area A.

Stonethrowing also spread to Beit Omar, south of Bethlehem. Dozens of youths threw stones at soldiers and placed rocks across the entrance to the village. One border policeman was hit by a stone, the IDF said.

In Bethlehem, trouble resumed after nightfall, as four firebombs lit up the new fortress style-wall protecting Rachel's Tomb, but caused no damage.

"We have done so much to

improve the life of Palestinians in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza. You know we have the right to build on Har Homa. Violence is not going to help anybody," Mordechai said.

For the second Friday in a row, security will be beefed up today on the Temple Mount, as well as at Har Homa. Between 1,600 and 2,000 extra policemen and border policemen will be on duty, a police spokesman said.

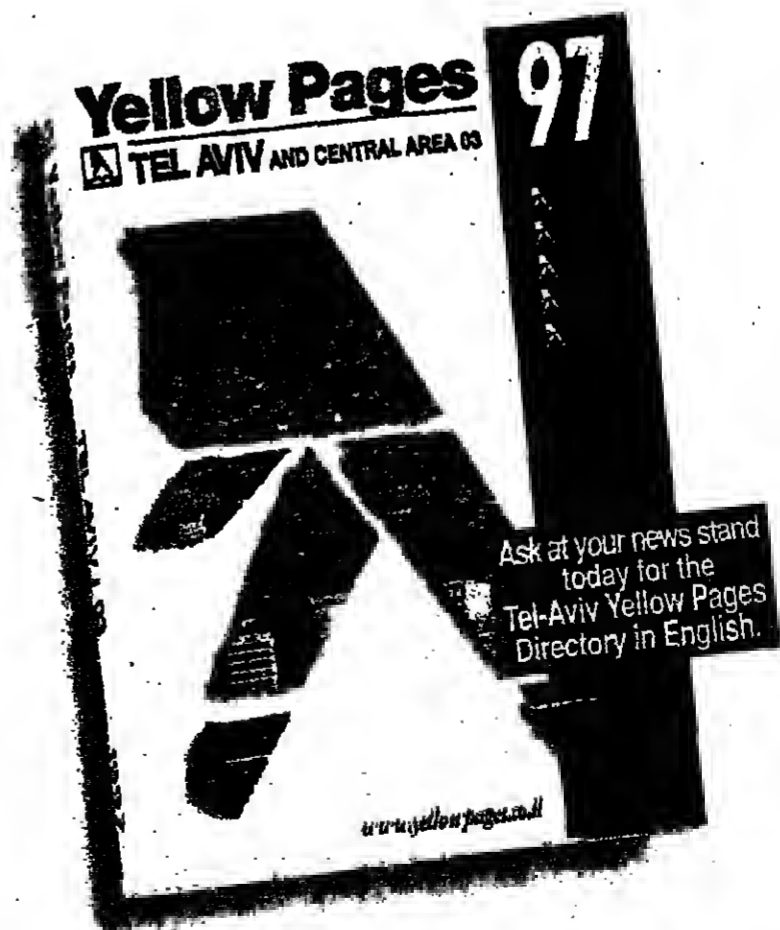
Palestinian leader Faisal Husseini said that Israel predicting violence "is like someone who starts a fire and then cries 'fire, fire, fire.' This government is starting the fire, and then they are crying that there is a danger from this fire."

Husseini said he is afraid there could be violence today, because "this government, by not listening to their partners in the peace process, by dealing with negotiations by dictating and not negotiating, and by neglecting the reality that Jerusalem is part of the negotiations as part of Oslo, they are discrediting the Palestinian leadership, and in the end someone will come and push us aside and lead instead of us."

Arafat and Netanyahu adviser Dore Gold yesterday flew into the

Continued on Page 18

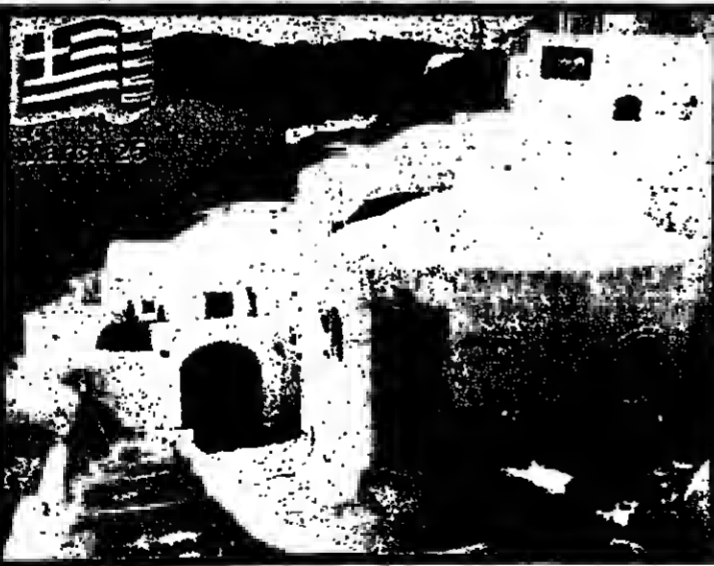
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...the government is planning to cut the budget...

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**Mordechai over Dahaniya**  
Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai observes Gaza's Dahaniya Airport from the air yesterday. (Defense Ministry)

# Palestinians skeptical of Netanyahu's offer

By **JON RIMANUEL**

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat may have rebuffed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal for a fast track to a final settlement, but other Palestinians said yesterday they believed the idea worth exploring.

Members of the legislative council suggested to Arafat advisers that the idea merits more than a public dismissal, and so the chairman's initial rejection of it is probably not the last word.

"We are not against accelerating the permanent status, but we must complete the interim agreement. If we can do both in six months that will be great," said Ahmed Qurie, the Palestinian Legislative Council speaker and chief Oslo negotiator.

But to cancel the interim agreement is not acceptable, he said. The talks would have to run parallel, "including the issues of full withdrawal, refugees, and future relations," he said.

But no leading Palestinians,

including Qurie, believe Netanyahu is serious, and until he proves otherwise they are assuming it is a trick.

"I don't think he is honest and I haven't yet seen a proposal," Qurie said.

There is no personal communication between Netanyahu and Arafat, as Arafat is refusing to meet unless the plan to build on Har Homa is cancelled.

Arafat is publicly treating the proposal with such disdain that apart from dismissing "novel statements" he did not refer to it during yesterday's session of the legislative council, which met in Gaza to reelect its principal officers.

Instead he lambasted Israeli construction on Har Homa and lashed out at Netanyahu as well.

"Does he take me for a fool, does he take us for drooling babes?" he exclaimed.

Council member Ziad Abu Amr, a political scientist, said that the general Palestinian impression is that Netanyahu has no real plan and is trying to patch up the dam-

age the recent decisions on Har Homa and redeployment have done to the peace process and Israel's image abroad.

"If there had been a good track record it may have been received in a different way. There is also a fear that if we lose the agreed-upon terms of reference we will have no terms for the peace process. Netanyahu would have to be very explicit about the contents of the plan and allow international guarantors," Abu Amr said.

Abu Amr did not seem to think Har Homa construction was a barrier to moving forward on the talks, saying, "Netanyahu would have to say that Abu Ghneim [Har Homa] is the last settlement activity until the end of permanent-status talks. If he declared a moratorium on any more settlement it might help."

Arafat adviser Nabil Abu Rudeineh also did not reject the Netanyahu proposal out of hand, but set conditions Netanyahu is unlikely to accept, such as "postponement" of Har Homa.

## Peres: Netanyahu proposal doomed

By **SARAH HONIG**

Labor Party chairman Shimon Peres said yesterday that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's move to accelerate the peace process is doomed to failure.

Peres made the remark at a meeting of his party's central committee. It was clear from the discussions at the meeting that party leaders had been caught off guard by Netanyahu's initiative. They did not reject Netanyahu's suggestion, but did not endorse it either.

The subject was hurriedly placed at the top of the committee's agenda at the last minute, though the speakers spent most of their time addressing the possibility of a national unity government.

"Netanyahu's move is doomed to failure," Peres said. "Sadly, it stands no chance. I am not happy about this, because I am for bringing the government down, but not

for bringing the peace process down, and it would do us good to distinguish between the two."

On the issue of a national unity government, Peres fended off critics who charged he is pushing to join the government to cement his hold on the party leadership.

Peres said Netanyahu did not approach him with an offer to join his coalition, but in an apparent slip of the tongue, he let on that "such an invitation will only come after the Bar-On affair is over."

But leadership challenger MK Ehud Barak clearly did not like Peres's remarks. In his address, he asked, "Why is a national unity government necessary? To help Bibi? To save him? A government of this sort ought not be rescued but it must be brought down."

"There is no point of even considering national unity with Netanyahu - not at any point in time," Barak said.

## Likud split on fast-track plan

By **SARAH HONIG**

Likud critics of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu were split last night on his move to speed up the final-status talks, with MK Ze'ev Begin rejecting the initiative and Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau welcoming it as "an admission that the Oslo process is dead."

Both Begin and Landau spoke at a gathering of Likud members last night attended by former prime minister Yitzhak Shamir and former defense minister Moshe Arens.

"What he is doing is replacing one dead-end route with another dead-end route," Begin asserted.

Landau, however, perceived an advantage in Netanyahu's proposal, "mostly because it spells the end of Oslo and admits that it is not a peace process and that we are not in the midst of a peace process, not of anything remotely resembling one."

"At most we are experiencing a mirage. So far Israel has gained nothing from the Oslo process but lost a lot. Perhaps we will do better with another approach, one which for the first time will force an Israeli government to think out what its goals are for the final settlement."

One of the Knesset's most hawkish newcomers, the Likud's MK Ze'ev Re'em, said "the new approach would perhaps stop the salami process of cutting slices off Israel without giving anything in return, until Israel is strategically weak. Then, when there is nothing more Israel can pay, it will be attacked and will be very vulnerable."

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon told Army Radio yesterday that "Israel must decide what areas are essential for its defense in the final-status framework and we must make our decisions clear to the US and to the Palestinians, to prevent illusory expectations and friction."

Agriculture Minister Rafail Eitan said he has no doubt that "talking now about the whole solution is better. What's the point of us making concessions continuously if they will explode the whole process over Jerusalem and the return of the refugees?"

"It was incredibly stupid to have agreed to this in the first place. Nowhere in the world is there a process in which you gradually yield all your strategic advantage and arrive at the negotiating table with nothing."

## Beilin, Eitan back accelerated talks

By **SARAH HONIG**

Likud MK Michael Eitan and Labor leadership hopeful Yossi Beilin both expressed support yesterday for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's proposal to accelerate the final-status talks, and suggested their recent jointly produced document be used as the government's guideline.

"Concentration on the final goals is the only sensible move for Israel, because it has nothing to gain from relinquishing all of its strategic assets in phased withdrawals, which themselves foment discord," Eitan said, at a joint press conference.

"The upshot is that we lose all our cards before the negotiations are over and we cannot successfully

negotiate without anything in our hands. The Arabs will have no incentive to reach agreement with us if we have nothing left to hand over."

Beilin said he "had recommended that the final status not be deferred but faced head-on now. I consider the phased withdrawals a mistaken approach because rather than build confidence, they erode it."

"Our paper specifies the parameters for Israel's negotiators. There would be a demilitarized Palestinian entity and an undivided Jerusalem, and most settlers would remain under Israeli rule."

Eitan asserted that Netanyahu "accepts chunks of our paper, though it has not received government approval. But it has considerable support inside the Likud and wide support in the nation."

Winning cards and numbers, Page 18

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Psalms 28, 9

In deepest sympathy we grieve with all our Israeli friends, sharing in their sorrow over their children so brutally killed.

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with all the Sisters of Mary,  
and their friends in Germany,  
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The Seminar will meet on Tuesday, March 25 1997 in the Yona Ettinger Hall, Gilman Building, Ramat Aviv Campus. Seating is limited.

On Tuesday April 1st, at the Ha'aretz Museum in Tel Aviv, the **Lions Israel Endowment Fund for the Israel Guide Dog Center for the Blind** will be holding an evening of entertainment with **Dudu Fisher**.

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مركز من التبرع

# Five Jewish families move to City of David

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Five Jewish families moved into the City of David area in Jerusalem's Arab neighborhood of Silwan late Wednesday night.

The families moved in between 11:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., accompanied by MK Hanan Port (NRP) and a contingent of 10 private guards. According to police, the move was legal and no action will be taken against the families.

The houses were purchased from a private owner six months ago by the Elad organization, said Yigal Canaan, a spokesman for the group. The families moved in this week, he said, because the previous tenants moved out only a week ago.

"There was nothing special about this move," Canaan said. "In the last year and a half we've moved into four new houses. The last move we did was three months ago, before that six months ago, and there was only a few lines in *Kol Ha'ir*. But now, because of the tension of Har

Homa, there was a lot of press." Palestinian leader Faisal Hussein called the move "another provocation, because we know that these homes were under the control of the Israelis long ago, and it seems to me they were trying before to avoid any kind of provocation, and it seems now that they have no interest in avoiding any provocation."

"I believe that there are some ministers, some people, inside the Israeli coalition or inside the Israeli community who are trying by all means to push the whole area to a real clash," Hussein said.

Canaan said the new tenants are only temporary and after repairs are done on the houses the permanent residents would move in.

"We couldn't wait," Canaan said, "it's too dangerous. Jibril Rajoub's men are working in all these areas, and the minute they see an empty house, they know what's going on. So we did minimum repairs in a couple days, just so there were better sanitary conditions, and we came in. We didn't



The City of David's most recent arrivals check out their new home yesterday. (Bryan McBarney)

# IAF warplanes blast Hizbullah targets

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

IAF warplanes struck deep in Lebanon yesterday, attacking Hizbullah targets north of the organization's stronghold in Ba'albek, less than 10 km. from the Syrian border.

Two IAF fighter planes fired two air-to-surface missiles on the village of Ashawaghir in the city of Hermel, 70 kilometers north of Ba'albek, according to Lebanese officials.

Reports from Lebanon said that a Hizbullah scout camp was hit in yesterday's air raid. Hizbullah issued a statement saying that the strike was a blatant breach of the Grapes of Wrath understandings.

The IDF Spokesman said that the pilots reported direct hits on the targets and that all the planes returned safely to their

bases.

This was the first IAF raid on Hermel since 1982. The IAF raided Ba'albek last month, destroying the Voice of the Oppressed radio station run by Hizbullah.

There were no immediate reports of casualties in the air raid, which was apparently in response to Hizbullah's attack on an IDF convoy in the Beaufort Castle region on Wednesday, in which a soldier was killed and three others wounded.

Sgt. Avner Kfir Hezi, 20, of Alon Moreh, was laid to rest at the Mt. Herzl Military Cemetery in Jerusalem yesterday. Hezi, a medic, was killed when a Fagot anti-tank missile hit the command car in which he and four other soldiers were riding.

Three of the other soldiers were wound-

ed, one lightly and two seriously, and were evacuated to Haifa's Rambam Hospital. Deputy hospital director Dr. Zvi Ben-Ishai said the lightly wounded soldier was released yesterday after treatment for injuries to his hand.

He said the condition of the two other soldiers, both suffering from shrapnel injuries to their limbs, was stable after they had undergone surgery. One is in the hospital's intensive care unit and the other in the orthopedic ward.

Hundreds of people, including Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, attended Hezi's funeral. His brother, Avner Hezi, noted that he had been named after a relative who died in the Yom Kippur War in 1973.

At the funeral, Rabbi Menahem Felix said that Hezi was not just a soldier from the territories, but a soldier of Israel and

made a plea for national unity. "We can not let partitions divide us, we are one people, and we have one land and one enemy," he said.

The commander of the Galilee unit, under whom Hezi had served, said that he had volunteered to serve in Lebanon, but had not told his parents because he did not want to worry them.

"You helped soldiers in the battlefield and you assisted in saving their lives," the commander said. "And yesterday, when you were wounded in the field we immediately wanted to try to rescue you, like you had done many times [for others, and we weren't able]."

Hezi's death brought to six the number of IDF soldiers killed in south Lebanon this year. More than 20 have been wounded in various incidents in the region during the same period.

# Hanegbi grilled again

By RAINE MARCUS

Justice Minister Tzvi Hanegbi is to be questioned yet again next week to complete the Bar-On-Hebron inquiry, police sources said yesterday. The minister was questioned under caution twice this week.

The police team, which for these past two months has probed the affair under the leadership of National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor and Dep. Cmdr. Ya'acov Grossman, met with State Attorney Edna Arbel, Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein and others yesterday to discuss evidence collected and to decide what further steps to take. Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz also participated.

Speaking at a conference of the National Crime Squad yesterday, Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani told senior investigators that, "We said we would not hinder you [in the probe], and indeed we did not interfere."

Regarding whether there will be indictments as a result of the investigation, Kahalani told the gathering: "Shame on you if [the police]

don't release the truth. Shame on you, who have toiled two months on this case, if it turns out that no criminal offenses have been committed, and you try and invent offenses. Release only the truth. Release the truth and we will stand by your side."

Figures in the public eye and political leaders should be prepared for exposure, added Kahalani, and they must show a personal example to the public. Regarding relations between the police and the press over the past two months, Kahalani said investigators are "in the middle, and should show restraint."

"This is a sensitive issue," he said. "If there are criminal aspects to the inquiry, then the public must know."

If not, said Kahalani, the question should be raised whether police should be responsible for a report explaining exactly what did happen in the affair. "The public may not need to know everything, since this could damage other people. But, in any case, a report should be issued, whatever happens, and the police should weigh procedures in the event that no criminal offenses have been committed."

# Haifa councilor wants a kosher zoo

By DAVID RUDGE

The geese were all of a gaggle yesterday, along with staff at Haifa's popular Gan Ha'em Zoo, following a request by a religious councilman to remove wild boar from the site, because they allegedly offend Orthodox visitors.

In a letter to Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna, councilman Yinnon Z'ribi asked the council, which partly finances the central Carmel zoo, to remove the family of wild boar.

Z'ribi maintains that the presence of the wild boar, predecessors of the domesticated pig, is upsetting to Orthodox Jews.

Zoo manager Pina Sivan said the request amazed and shocked her. She stressed that wild boar roam free in the woods and forests of Mt. Carmel and many other areas in the North.

Furthermore, she noted, there are dozens of other "non-kosher" animals in the zoo, such as snakes and jackals, which are all indigenous to the area.

Municipal spokeswoman Bracha Brill said Z'ribi's letter had not yet reached the mayor, but it is "highly unlikely" that any changes he requests would be made at the zoo.

She noted this is the first time since the zoo was established in the 1950s that anyone - even among the many Orthodox visitors - has complained about the presence of wild boar.

A city official, speculating the request was a Purim joke, suggested: "Maybe the male animals should also be separated from the female animals because of the possible offensiveness to the sensitivities of certain people."

# Mazor: Bar-On investigators apolitical

## Investigations chief slams press for leaks

By RAINE MARCUS

The police have proved they are capable of conducting a completely apolitical investigation, said National Investigations chief Cmdr. Sando Mazor at the annual conference of the National Crimes Squad in Petah Tikva yesterday.

Mazor refused to go into possible recommendations to State Attorney Edna Arbel on indictments in the Bar-On Affair. Mazor addressed the elite squad, which investigates serious crimes and has probed sensitive political cases, including those involving Aryeh Deri, just as its chief Yoram Rudman is about to be replaced by Cmdr. Moshe Mizrahi. Rudman is due to be police representative in the Far East, based in Thailand. The

appointment is a new one in the region.

Mazor slammed the press for publishing leaks. "These leaks were tendentious and intended to disrupt the probe," said Mazor. "But for these past two months we have proved we are capable of conducting an inquiry free from political intervention on a controversial and ambivalent issue. The investigation has been conducted according to the law in spite of attempts by certain parties to cast doubts on the nature of the inquiry."

Mazor spoke mostly about the police's International Crime Division, which mainly concentrates on crimes concerning Eastern Europe and the CIS. Mazor predicted that new intelligence methods will be used by police and said he hopes that intelligence gathering would also increase in the spheres of

terrorism and public order.

While no one could state the number of alleged Russian mafia heads living here at least some of the time and who own businesses here, Inspector-General Assaf Hefetz said figures involved in organized crime are "under control" and have still not managed to infiltrate political circles.

Chief Supt. Ofer Gamliel disclosed that the squad recently opened criminal files against Israeli citizens who escaped from Iraq in the mid-80s but then went back via Turkey to try and bring their relatives to Israel or retrieve possessions still there. Around 15 such people have recently been investigated for entering a hostile country, he said, even though they went to Iraq and returned more than 10 years ago. The investigation was postponed for years for security reasons.

**WHO NEEDS THE WORLD'S SYMPATHY? AFTER JEWS ARE MURDERED...**

THE KING OF JORDAN pays a "shiva call," but in exchange receives an airport for Chief P.L.O. terrorist Yasser Arafat! The United States sends condolences...but condemns Israel for building on Har Homa, and our settlements! Britain, France, Germany, Russia - all historically such 'good friends' of Israel, offer us sympathy and friendly advice - designed to benefit our Arab enemies!!!

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# Clinton-Yeltsin talks to focus on NATO

### News agencies

**HELSINKI** — Russia promised a tough summit fight over NATO enlargement yesterday. But the United States said it would not be deterred by Moscow's objections, as the two leaders arrived in the Finnish capital for their meeting.

"President Bill Clinton and I face difficult, serious talks," President Boris Yeltsin said at the airport.

But the Kremlin chief, looking in good health after his recent long illness, said it was important to find compromises and maintain the US-Russian partnership that had been forged after the Cold War, despite their differences.

Clinton and Yeltsin both converged on Helsinki voicing a common commitment to peace in Europe but still deeply divided on how to ensure it.

Oddly, the US president had agreed to move the summit from Washington to Helsinki to make the trip easier for Yeltsin, who underwent quintuple bypass surgery in November and suffered a serious case of pneumonia in January. But it is Clinton who now finds himself the invalid.

For the two leaders the meeting on neutral turf is their 11th in four years. The summit was pushed back after Clinton twisted his knee last Friday and underwent surgery to repair a torn tendon.

Clinton made an unusual arrival in the summit city, lowered to the airport tarmac from Air Force One in an air-

line catering truck. The leg injury leaves him with a wheelchair and crutches for several weeks.

He was wheeled out of the truck in a flag-snapping chill wind, his injured leg propped up in front of him.

Yeltsin, determined to demonstrate vigor to his critics back home, couldn't help crowing in advance, "the healthy Yeltsin and the ill Clinton are coming."

Anxious to demonstrate his full recovery from heart surgery last year, he arrived shortly after Clinton and made a more traditional entrance down the steps of his new presidential jet.

The two leaders were to dine last night at the Finnish presidential palace in Helsinki. The main talks take place today in a modern, airy villa overlooking the Baltic, the residence of Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari.

Temperatures were below freezing in the Finnish capital and there was a light dusting of snow across the city.

The main point of contention on their summit agenda: Clinton wants to expand NATO's security blanket eastward to cover former Warsaw Pact members; Yeltsin says that would isolate Russia and mark a return to Cold War divisiveness in Europe.

"We have difficult and serious talks ahead of us," Yeltsin said at the airport arrival ceremony. "I think Bill Clinton and his support group are looking for a constructive compromise to all controversial questions so that we can depart again as friends."

Yeltsin expressed hope that he and Clinton will be able to "play a note of peace" and ease tensions between the two countries over NATO and other issues.

Whatever the outcome of the two-day summit, NATO enlargement appeared inevitable.

Clinton, before departing Washington, promised to pursue "a robust partnership between NATO and Russia, a relationship that makes Russia a true partner of the alliance."

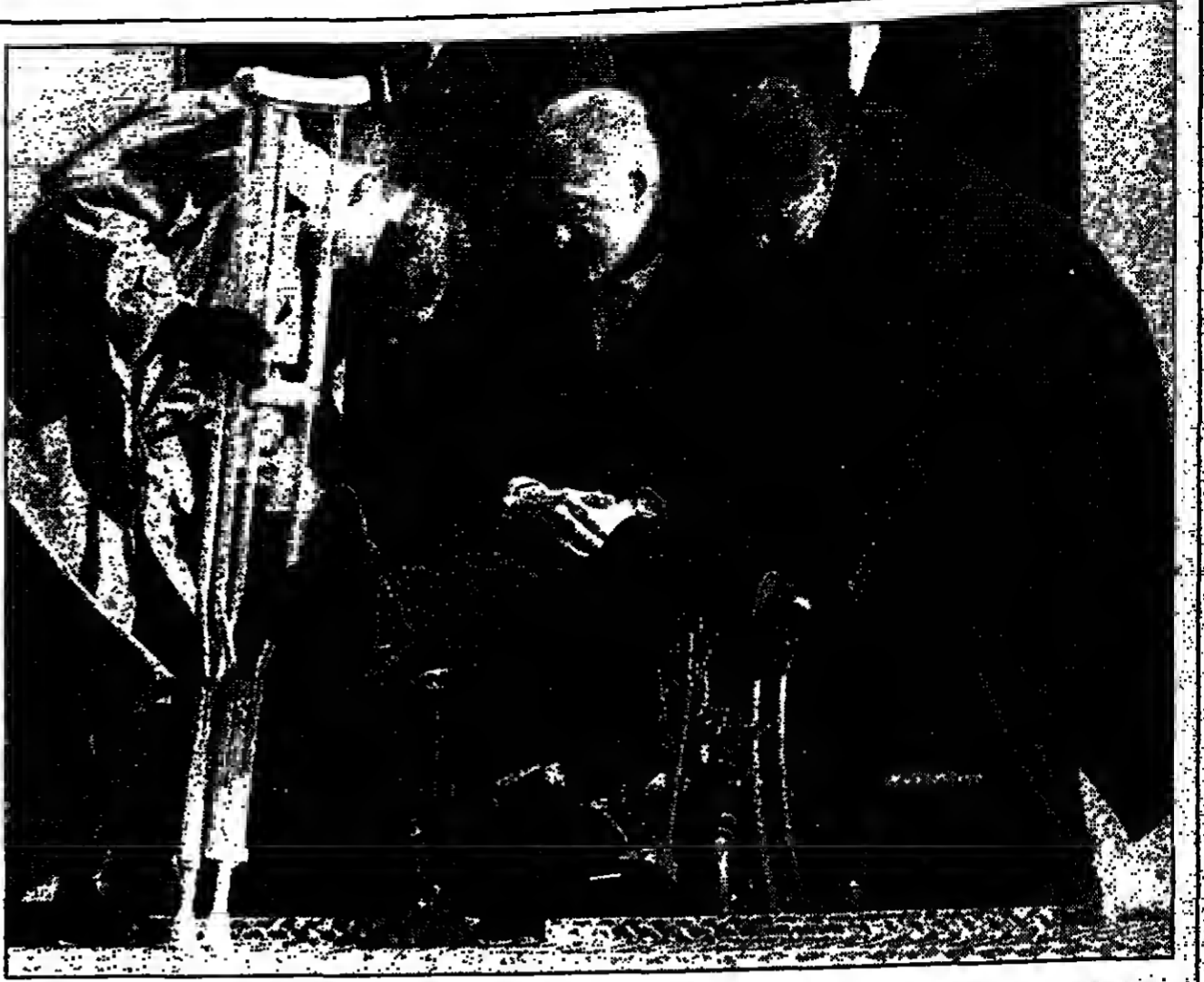
Yeltsin, facing enormous opposition at home to any expansion of the 16-member alliance, appeared determined to extract as many concessions as possible.

Meeting with Finnish Foreign Minister Tarja Halonen yesterday, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said, "Rhetoric leading up to the summit is not what's important. What's important is discussions that will take."

Clinton and Yeltsin plan to take up a US-proposed charter to give Russia a larger role in NATO deliberations, but no veto over alliance military actions. NATO is preparing to take in new members from central and eastern Europe in 1998. Hungary, Poland and the Czech Republic are the leading candidates.

Along the road from Vantaa Airport to Helsinki, small clusters of people gathered to watch the presidential motorcade.

A bandful of Lithuanian students whistled and chanted outside



US President Bill Clinton is helped on his arrival in Helsinki yesterday. Clinton is to hold talks with Russian President Boris Yeltsin over NATO's plans to expand into Eastern Europe. (Reuters)

Clinton's hotel, demanding NATO membership for Lithuania.

With tensions over NATO expansion spilling over into the arms control arena, Clinton hoped to prod the Russians to ratify the START II missile-reduction treaty.

A US official speaking on condition of anonymity said the concessions Clinton was prepared to offer included a delay of several years in the deadline for Russia to blow up certain missile silos and for scrapping banned bombers and submarines.

However, the long-range warheads on the missiles would have to be removed under the treaty's schedule.

In return, Clinton wants a clear commitment by Yeltsin that the treaty will be ratified by the Russian parliament this spring.

On the passing of

**Prof. KALMAN YAAKOV MANN**

we at the World Council of Jewish Communal Service extend our deepest sympathy to our Associate President, Dr. Zvi and Ruth Felbe and their family

On the eve of the first anniversary of the death of

**RUTH GROSS ז"ל**

Friday, March 28, 1997 (19 Adar Bet 5757) we will visit her grave at Beit Zayit, meeting at the moshav center at 10 o'clock.

**N. David Gross and Family**

We will unveil the tombstone for our beloved

**DORA NATHAN ז"ל**

Mother of Brenda Nafte in Avichal Cemetery, on Tuesday, March 25, 1997 (16 Adar Bet) at 5 p.m.

**The Family**

Twelve months without

**NATHAN**

On his first *jahrzeit*, we will visit his grave at Hayarkon Cemetery, on Wednesday, March 26 (17 Adar Bet) at 4 p.m.

**Ester Suffrin and the Family**

In sorrow, we announce the passing of the artist and teacher

**FRANZ BERNHEIMER**

on March 16, 1997, in Kiryat Tivon.

**His Wife, Family and Friends**

On the eighth anniversary of the passing of

**MIRIAM WERTHEIMER**

*née Walach ז"ל*

we will hold a memorial service on Friday, March 28, 1997 at 11 a.m. at the Nahariya cemetery.

**The Family**

## EU team: Aid needed for Albania

THE HAGUE (Reuters) - The head of an EU fact-finding mission to Albania said yesterday the European Union's first priority should be to help restore order in the country and secure safe passage for food aid.

"We do believe as a mission that European countries should do something to improve security if only to help our emergency supplies to get through," Dutch diplomat Jan de Marchant of d'Ansembourg told a news conference on his return from Tirana.

This could include a "modest (European) police presence" which could take the form of police or military advisers, D'Ansembourg said. "I am not thinking in terms of thousands (of people)," he added, but declined to specify the recommendations put forward by the mission ahead of their presentation to EU foreign ministers meeting in Brussels on Monday.

Dutch foreign minister Hans van Mierlo said the team's assessment of what was needed in Albania fitted reasonably well with the forms of possible aid agreed by European foreign ministers meeting in the Dutch town of Apeldoorn last week-end.

The Netherlands currently holds the six-month presidency of the European Union. "The (team's) request on the basis of the observed need (in Albania) is very close to what we agreed then," Van Mierlo said.

"The report is in no way urging the unfolding of a major military presence — our does it signal the need for one." "I have a good feeling what is being proposed by the mission will be acceptable but we have to find a form for it," he said.

"The European Union is prepared to play a stabilizing role, but in coordination with other organizations," Van Mierlo said.

## Riots, mutiny shake Papua New Guinea

By GEOFF SPENCER

**PORT MORESBY (AP)** — In an attempt to ease civil unrest gripping the capital of Papua New Guinea, the government said yesterday it was suspending a controversial contract with mercenaries hired to crush an island rebellion.

The country's army leader led a mutiny Monday, claiming it was unfair to pay foreign mercenaries when local soldiers were underpaid, and that the mercenaries would be overly brutal with Bougainville island villagers.

Brig-Gen. Jerry Singirok also claimed that the government was overpaying for helicopters to be used by the mercenaries, and that money was being embezzled.

Singirok refused to cooperate with the mercenaries and detained dozens of them in a move that sparked clashes between police

and mutinous soldiers, and riots by their civilian supporters in the capital, Port Moresby.

At least five soldiers held up in a barracks were seriously injured yesterday when riot police fired rubber bullets.

Later yesterday, Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan announced that the \$27 million contract with British-based Sandline International would be suspended for two weeks while a national judge investigates allegations of corruption.

It was not immediately clear what the scope of the investigation would be, and there was no immediate reaction to the announcement from Singirok or his supporters.

"I believe it is the only way to dispel all allegations against the government and set the record straight," Chan said.

Chan announced earlier in the week that he was firing Singirok. But soldiers loyal to the military leader continued to hold the 43 English and South African mercenaries. About 20 other mercenaries were deported yesterday, Maj. Walter Enuma said.

A petition sent to the government yesterday and signed by 4,700 soldiers — virtually the entire defense force — called for deportation of all mercenaries, an inquiry into their hiring and Singirok's reinstatement.

Rioting since Wednesday has closed shops, banks and schools in Port Moresby. Police prowled the streets yesterday, using tear gas and dogs to disperse a mob attempting to loot a downtown shopping center.

The nine-year rebellion on copper-rich Bougainville has left more than 1,000 people dead. The ill-

trained government soldiers have been no match for guerrillas seeking an independent state on the thickly jungled, mountainous island.

Bougainville is 1,300 km north-east of the capital of Papua New Guinea, which is just north of Australia.

Chan hired the mercenaries after saying he was "tired of seeing his boys come back in body bags."

Sandline has subcontracted much of its work to the South African mercenary firm Executive Outcomes, famed for its successes in Angola and Sierra Leone.

Singirok has said that — contrary to government statements that the mercenaries would be used only as "advisors" — there were plans to have mercenaries use helicopter gunships to fire missiles at rebel-held villages on the island. Singirok says such attacks would kill civilians.

## Zaire rebels order loot returned

KISANGANI (AP) —

Balancing boxes of medical supplies and food on their heads, a parade of people headed a rebel warning to bring back the looted supplies or face the consequences.

Swarms of people returned the goods, which had been pilfered just before the city fell over the weekend, at trucks parked alongside the road and at a university campus.

One person brought back a stolen sewing machine. "The trucks were swamped," said Brother Jerry Selenke, who runs a Catholic charity that helped recover the goods yesterday.

Aid agencies may have suffered the biggest losses when retreating government troops, mercenaries and civilians this week pillaged homes, schools, offices and stores. Warehouses were stripped of tons of medical supplies and food for 40,000 displaced Zairians and 100,000 Rwandan refugees.

## CIA nominee a product of the judging committee

WASHINGTON (AP) —

In outward appearance, the contrast between George Tenet and Anthony Lake couldn't be much greater. Lake is a soft-spoken academic, Tenet a cigar-chomping son of Greek immigrants who wears his passions on his sleeve.

The reception Tenet receives as nominee for CIA director from the Senate Intelligence Committee also is likely to be far different than the drawn-out adversarial ordeal the panel put Lake through.

Tenet is a product of the committee, where he served first as a junior staff member and then as staff director.

Former colleagues recall an ebullient Tenet slapping hands in Senate hallways and committee rooms to mark a legislative triumph or a victory by his beloved Georgetown University basketball team.

And when he would talk by telephone with his mother in New York, they remember him speaking Greek.

Since December, Tenet has been acting CIA director, running the spy agency after the resignation of John Deutch.



George Tenet (Reuters)

"He has a distinguished record of service in the intelligence community," said Republican Sen. Richard Shelby, chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee and the man who orchestrated much of the criticism of Lake.

In 1995 the Senate confirmed Tenet as deputy CIA director, the agency's No. 2 post, after he got a unanimous endorsement from the Intelligence Committee.

In early 1987, a Senate delegation that included Sen. David Boren was in Europe for briefings on arms reduction negotiations. As the Intelligence Committee expert on arms talks, Tenet was along.

Now president of the University of Oklahoma, Boren said, "I was so impressed by him that when the staff director resigned and I was a relatively new chairman (of the Intelligence Committee) I jumped George over seven or eight other senior people to make him staff director."

Noting that "an Oklahoma senator ended up with a staff director from New York City," Boren said the arrangement made the point that "George has gotten where he is by ability and hard work and not through playing partisan politics."

## Palme murder back in spotlight

**STOCKHOLM (Reuters)** - The unsolved 1986 murder of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme returned to the spotlight yesterday after a lawyer revealed a former client told him about a conspiracy to kill Palme and Sweden's king.

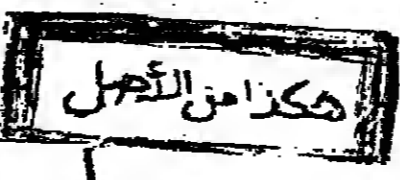
Lawyer Pelle Svensson said his client Lars Tingstrom, known as the Bomb Man after being convicted twice on explosion charges, disclosed on his deathbed in 1993 that he was a part of a gang of four involved in the murder.

He told Svensson in a confession, partly written and partly oral, that he planned the murder from his prison cell to take revenge on a society he hated. "It was Lars Tingstrom who ordered the murder. In total there

were four people (involved) of whom two still are alive," Svensson told daily newspaper Dagens Nyheter.

Svensson told Swedish media the gang of four included Tingstrom, Christer Pettersson, who was convicted of Palme's murder in 1988 but later acquitted, a former bank robber and an explosives expert, now dead.

But Svensson said the primary target for the group was Sweden's king, Carl XVI Gustaf, not Palme. He said it was pure chance that Palme was killed first, shot dead in a Stockholm street in February 1986 after leaving a cinema with his wife. Svensson said it was Tingstrom's hatred of society that was the motive for the murder.



The view from the East Bank

Abraham Rabinovich assesses the mood in Amman following King Hussein's condolence visit to Beit Shemesh

It was close to 1 a.m. but customers were still trickling into Yacoub's all-night pharmacy in Amman. Whenever one did, Yacoub broke his discourse in mid-sentence and walked out to the shop floor from the backroom where he was drinking coffee. When he started back, he would resume talking from the shop even before I could see him, picking up the dangling phrase precisely where he had left it.

They? I felt ashamed for the king when I saw it on television. I am against the peace treaty. That country is not Israel, it is Palestine. I was born here but I am from Jaffa. For peace, you must give me back my roots, my house. If we can do this without war, that is best, but I don't think that will happen. I tell this to my children every day, never to forget they are Palestinians. We wait for a good time to take it back.



Jordanian anti-riot police mount a roadblock Monday at Muzaireeb, west of Amman, to prevent sympathizers of the soldier who gunned down the seven schoolgirls from paying respects to his family.

Some people didn't think the king should have gone, that his visit wasn't kingly," said Yacoub. "But His Majesty is more human than any protocol can imagine. I've lived through the era of Nasser and Arab nationalism. I've lived through the post-Nasser period filled with the PLO. We are now in the peace era, whether we like it or not."

MARWAN'S WORDS had the ring of hard truth about them, an innermost truth after the proprieties had been stripped away. Had I departed Amman after our talk, this view of a decent man dreaming of annihilating Israel might have been the dominant one I took with me. Instead of heading for the airport, however, I went to the University of Jordan. It would not be the professors I met who provided the balance to Marwan but the taxi driver who took me there.

Modernity and vitality of Israel. "Israel built itself from nothing," he observed. He and his family had lived a comfortable life in Kuwait until the Gulf war, he said, but economic conditions since their return to Jordan were difficult. Could he live with a peace that confirms the loss of Palestinian

be taken literally. "He was staking out an opening negotiating position." On the attractive university campus, a group of male students was dancing a dabka on a walkway and singing a catchy refrain. "They're celebrating the election results for the student council," someone

ate. Politically, it was probably counter-productive. The peace process at the moment is not very encouraging but if you ask me whether there will be peace in the long run I would say yes. It's simply in the interest of both parties. The human element, like the king's visit, doesn't play a role. What mat-

The previous night, Yacoub the pharmacist had spoken of a great difference between the character of West Bank Palestinians and trans-Jordanian Palestinians. "The Palestinians on the West Bank have changed totally because of their contact over the years with the Israelis. Before 1967, they were dull and lazy. They have turned into hard-working, ambitious, efficient people. Perhaps it is because of the competition with Israel. Now it is we who are dull and lazy compared to them even though Palestinians in Jordan work much harder than the native Jordanians."

also in atomic bombs and in science and the arts. When I visited cancer institutes in the states, all the researchers' names seemed to end with 'berg' or 'stein' or 'man.' "You have made tremendous achievements over the past 50 years while the Arab world has been listening to rhetoric and staging coups d'etat. When I went to university we had a professor who said 'If you go on with your mad dreams of driving the Jews into the sea you're going to end up in the desert.' He said once the Arabs give the Israelis peace they will have no more reason to be militant. "Just after the signing of the peace treaty, a reporter from Kol Yisrael came into the store to buy something and we began talking. My young son was here. I could see that he was, how shall I say, restless. "All his life he had heard about 'the Jews' and here was one. I said 'Son, shake hands with our neighbor. He comes from Jerusalem. He is a Jew.' This is the era of peace and anyone who is sensible must accept it."

"Most Jordanians felt that the king's visit was unnecessary. At the human level it was appropriate; politically, it was probably counter-productive."

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Watching Palestinians protest construction at Har Homa.

(Brian Hendler)

# Har Homa: Spectator sport

By ELLI WOHLGELER

The world's media descended on Har Homa this week to shine the spotlight on Yoram Sulimani going about his business. But Sulimani didn't care. "We do our job, you do your job," said Sulimani, one of the supervisors at the site. "Our job is to prepare ground for building to earn our living, your job is to write what you want. You take photos, you guys talk, everyone does what they have to do."

"We were told to respect the media - we don't interfere with anyone. The whole media thing is separate from us, we don't get involved in it. We're only doing the work, all the rest doesn't interest us, all the politics, all that's related to it."

Talk about the calm in the midst of a storm.

While Sulimani went about his business, all around him was tumult. Hundreds of army and police security personnel were taking up positions around the area in a veritable military operation designed to protect and enable four Caterpillar bulldozers and steam shovels to perform a simple task: dig up some earth.

But there was not the slightest hint of any interference. As IDF helicopters hovered overhead, snipers crouched behind boulders and soldiers rambled alongside the bulldozers making their way up the hill, the only resistance they encountered were the hundreds of journalists who were there to cover this long-awaited landmark event. Indeed, some of the bulldozers couldn't maneuver to other tracts of land because they were blocked by the dozens of cars parked alongside the road.

It was all so anti-climactic. For weeks there were warnings of a violent showdown over the start of this building project, fears that a new infitada could break out with the first shovel of overturned dirt. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said that there were intelligence reports indicating that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat had given the "green light" to Hamas to mount terrorist attacks against Israel.

OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, speaking to reporters at the site, said "the overall situation is a tense one. We are in a crisis. What we are doing is to do our best to keep the situation as calm as possible, and at the same time make all the preparations needed for all possibilities. The main stress right now is terror."

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani warned the Palestinian Authority not to choose the option of violence. "If it lets trigger-happy people act, it will simply be making a very grave mistake," he said. "We are prepared for any flare-up, our reaction will be sharp, severe and strong."

The Palestinians were also bracing for the worst, as the PA Health Ministry declared a state of emergency at hospitals, in preparation for the expected casualties.

"We have stockpiled stores of medications for at least two weeks," Abdallah Moheskin, acting director of Ramallah Hospital, was quoted as saying. "We have asked our pharmacist to provide fluids, bandages and chest tubes. We are not doing any elective operations and elective patients are not being admitted now."

But when building finally got under way Tuesday afternoon, nothing happened. A few scuffles broke out between IDF soldiers and Arab teenagers who tried to reach the digging bulldozers, and some tires were burnt in Bethlehem, but that was the extent of it.

Out of sight, on a hill around the bend and facing Har Homa, sat a dozen Palestinian demonstrators led by Faisal Hussein in a tent city erected on Monday to protest the building. It was cold on that hill, and it turned colder as the week went on, but still they sat there, even after the media stopped mobbing them.

There were a few spectators who came to Har Homa to see what all the noise was about, like Ela Brajer, a temporary visitor from France.

"I just want to see with my own eyes what this huge problem about Har Homa is," she said. "I don't know why the whole world has to be involved in this. I would like just to find out what people are upset about."

"No one in France talks about the French political problems, they talk about Har Homa, and they don't even know where it is, what it is, why, who it is for."

But the world certainly learned this week the answers to those questions.

Netanyahu spoke at length to the media defending his decision to build, even in the face of near-unanimous international condemnation. "There is never a good time to build in Jerusalem, because there is always opposition," he said. "When they say 'Wait for better timing,' they mean 'Don't build, not ever.' We intended to build, we promised to build and we are building."

"If we succumb to the threat of violence on an issue as central to the Jewish heart as Jerusalem, where will we stop that surrender? If we are ready to surrender to the threat of the terrorists in Jerusalem, we will surrender everywhere."

By the next day, after the army of media had moved on to record other events, work at the site continued in a more serious way.

Supervisor Sulimani, who had gone through the same media spectacle when he built the Jericho bypass road, said he knew what would happen next. "It'll take a few days, but soon everyone is going to calm down and we will build Jerusalem."

# Do school trips get a passing grade?

### The fingers of blame being pointed in the aftermath of the Naharayim slaughter are leading to serious reviews of school trip security regulations, Aryeh Dean Cohen reports



(Israel Today)

The heavy rain and strong wind that forced the cancellation of many school trips this past week may have been welcomed by parents worried by last week's tragedy at Naharayim. But the wintry weather was nothing close to the storm that is tearing through the country's educational establishment after seven girls were killed at the site by a Jordanian soldier.

While Education Ministry officials and representatives of the AMIT Fuerst School of Beit Shemesh traded accusations this week, those who prepare school trips agreed on one thing: the ABCs of security and safety could be improved.

School trips have been an essential part of the curriculum for years, but recently their character has changed. The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel spokeswoman Orit Nevo says, "You can't grow up without doing some hiking," noting that the visits are part of the schools' educational program. For years, the SPNI, a non-profit organization, was practically alone in the field - "we invented the school trip," she says.

But privatization in the Israeli economy saw school trips also become big business. With an estimated 4.7 million days of touring a year, according to Nevo, the school-trip business was just too big for the SPNI to handle alone.

Since no license is required to open a firm that organizes trips, "fly-by-night" companies get involved, Nevo says. Many try to steer schools toward trips featuring "attractions" like water parks, where they receive a percentage of the entrance fees. The children demand the attractions, making the companies popular. "If they go to Eilat, they want at least two nights of disco and a full day at the beach," says Nevo. "And teachers don't like to walk a lot anymore."

More attractions means more money for the company, and a lower cost for the principal.

Ideally, the principal planning the trip does so according to a red-and-green handbook, *Special Circular No. 6, 1996/97, Trips in the Educational System*, issued by the Education Ministry director-general. Nevo says that the issue of security and safety "is very organized. It's treated very seriously" in the book. Once the itinerary is agreed upon - usually by the principal, a teacher appointed to coordinate trips, and a tour-company representative - it is filed with the local trips liaison unit, maintained by officials of the SPNI, army and Education Ministry. "It includes where they are going to be, whether it will be on foot, or by bus. This information is then fed into the liaison unit's computer which issues a document saying whether everything has been approved or not, and outlining any limitations, including whether or not you are allowed to visit the sites you requested," Nevo explains.

"What happened in the case of Naharayim," she believes, "was that when it became a tourist attraction, it was decided by the ministry that one is not allowed to go to the Jordanian-controlled side. There are two parts to the site. If you ask for a permit for Naharayim, the computer will tell you: 'You can walk on the dam road [on the Israeli section], but it will warn you that the Jordanian part is off-limits.'

Nevo insists that the AMIT Fuerst School "didn't even ask for Naharayim" in their request, so they couldn't have a permit to be there at all. But AMIT Fuerst School officials insisted this week that they had all the necessary permits.

There are others, however, who think the whole permit system is nothing but "a sham." Hanoeh Levine runs Jerusalem's Mehavim company specializing in school tours and transport.

He posits that in the Naharayim trip "it appears the principal didn't go according to the permit. But you never do. It just doesn't happen. Why? If you say you're going to leave at eight, you never do. You say 10, a kid twists his ankle, so you leave at 11, which means you have to change the itinerary."

As for last week's incident, Levine conjectures: "A guide comes from Shadmot Mehola who took a group to Naharayim the other day, and last week, and the week before that, and says: 'C'mon, let's go there, it's great. The kids will see Jordanians and peace, it's fantastic.' Who's going to call the principal? They just go. You get somewhere, and they let you in, so [you think] what's the problem?" Levine says school groups were visiting Naharayim "all the time. There's no school that hasn't been there," he claims.

The attack, he says, "was just a matter of bad luck."

he says.

Making sure this doesn't happen is a different story, however. About a year and a half ago, following reports of safety problems, the ministry established a unit to monitor school trips.

Ten inspectors were dispatched to spot check the trips - that's one inspector per 10,000 trips. They check equipment, and whether the school is on the proper route.

According to Zudkevich, around the time of the Naharayim incident, his inspectors caught four school

**Ten inspectors were sent to spot check the trips - that's one inspector for every 10,000 trips.**

groups there, two of which had already visited the Jordanian side.

Zudkevich admits he lacks the proper manpower, but says he plans to ask for additional inspectors.

Off-limits areas are periodically updated. While no recommendations were made to stop trips to the capital following last year's Jerusalem bus bombings, Zudkevich said Judea, Samaria and Gaza were placed off-limits by the army after the riots that followed the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit.

Call him an idealist, but Zudkevich believes that there's a simple reason why the ministry's guidelines should be strictly obeyed. "I want to believe that a principal who is aware of his responsibility in such matters does everything possible to make sure all the guidelines are followed. Can I guarantee that all the trips I mentioned were carried out according to them? Definitely not. Which is why we are stepping up supervision. That's great, but we can't ever check every trip. We have to know that there is someone who takes responsibility."

Hana Levine, principal of Jerusalem's Hebrew University Secondary School, agrees. "This whole matter carries with it a tremendous responsibility," she says. Despite all the planning she and

her staff do, "things happen," she says. For example, during a trip to the North, the kayak of some pupils overturned. Fortunately no one was hurt, but kayaking will not be included in the school's trips in the future.

As for the Naharayim incident, Levine says that while she knows the site was off limits, there were definite calls within the educational system to visit there, especially in the framework of "100 Years of Zionism" projects. "So the question is, to what extent the call to visit a particular place echoes in the system, and what backing you give later to a school that did so," she says. "If the principal says he had a permit, then I must be did. The question is, if he got one, how he got it, because it's forbidden."

Despite the incident, parents and pupils questioned this week seemed confident about the trips, although maybe a bit more concerned than before. Arnie Ben-Dor of Jerusalem, who often goes along as an armed escort, said: "I insist on knowing what the route is, but I accept the fact that the principal will do what has to be done." He says the permit system "is very simple and specific," and hopes last week's tragedy "was an isolated incident."

"There are checks and checks and checks all the way through," says Avi Linden of Jerusalem, who's also participated in trips. "I think they're as safe and secure as they can be - even more so than some family trips."

Shaul Cohen, 18, who attends the capital's Boyer High School, said that on his school trips, "they're very careful," although he did remember one to the Golan Heights where his class crossed into an area he thinks was off-limits, and spoke to UN soldiers. Most parents interviewed complained more about late arrivals and children coming home sick than safety or security.

Are the trips safe? Nevo thinks they are, although she had more confidence when large bodies like SPNI ran them.

In the wake of last week's incident, there is growing awareness that even in a country where informality reigns, school-trip rules are not meant to be broken.

Clearly, if the level of safety and security on such trips is to receive more than just a passing grade, it will require a greater effort on the part of parents, teachers, principals and the Education Ministry to ensure the Naharayim tragedy never recurs.

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# A town that's grown up

Beit Shemesh is no longer the bitter place that Amos Oz described. The tragedy at Naharayim showed another face of the town, Herb Keinon reports

Beit Shemesh joined She'ar Yashuv last week as a locality that will long be linked in the communal mind to a tragedy. Like Ma'alot. Like Misgav Am. Like Beit She'an. The name will jolt the memory, triggering questions of an "isn't that where?" variety.

Beit Shemesh will also link with King Hussein's visit with the poignancy of the red-eyed king kneeling down to comfort grieving parents, and the parents accepting his condolences with sorrow, restraint and dignity.

Beit Shemesh, by Wednesday, was hobnobbing back to normal. The death notices that scarred notice boards on quiet streets were replaced by notices announcing times for seven unweaving ceremonies.

The city-center, largely deserted for four days after the tragedy, shed its ghost-town aura and began showing renewed signs of life. Music from MTV blared again from a candy store near the municipality.

And children began getting ready for Purim, albeit a little differently. A teenage girl walked into Greisha's Studio in the center of town and asked the proprietor, Gregory Ya'acovov, when he could photograph her in her costume. "What's the costume?" Ya'acovov asked.

"A clown with tears on her cheeks," the girl replied. As this city of some 29,000 residents rose from its communal shiva, there was a palpable feeling of unity.

This was felt in the number of residents who attended the girls' funerals, and who went to homes of people they didn't know to pay condolence calls. It was felt

in the efforts of people, of complete strangers, to provide food for the families, and in the establishment of a fund for them. Grief bonds. Grief this deep bonds deeply.

Deborah Zwebner, an immigrant from New Jersey, knew none of the girls killed, or their families.

Yet on Thursday night she stood in the rain and cold and attended four of the funerals. "They are our girls," Zwebner said, explaining why she attended the gut-wrenching funerals. "As a mother, we shared our grief together."

There was another inescapable feeling in the town last week, a feeling brought home by conversations with both townspeople and the "city fathers" - the feeling that the larger public's perception of this town is changing. The restraint and dignity with which the families and the city here its burden will help erase negative images of Beit Shemesh that have accumulated over years of being viewed as a haven for drug addicts, or a cauldron for the unemployed.

"The king's visit put Beit Shemesh on the world's map," said Ya'acovov, obviously wishing it would not have had to happen under such circumstances. "People will see that it is not the same city it was 20 years ago."

Indeed. In 1983, Amos Oz wrote the critically acclaimed *The Land of Israel*. He devoted a chapter of it to Beit Shemesh, painting a particularly unflattering image that has plagued the city to this day. It was the image of an angry, frustrated, bitter, loser of a town. Oz, Zwebner said, made



Beit Shemesh resident Deborah Zwebner, who knew none of the victims but attended four funerals: 'As a mother, we shared our grief together.'

(Sark Uziel)

## Beit Shemesh memorial website

In the front yard of the AMIT Feerst school in Beit Shemesh, students crowd around a black-clothed table covered by hundreds of condolence messages from around the world sent by e-mail to a Beit Shemesh website.

The website ([www.shemesh.co.il](http://www.shemesh.co.il)), which was started by Canadian immigrant and Beit Shemesh resident Daniel Aufgang, was established to provide general information about Beit Shemesh for local residents and those thinking of moving there.

"When this horrible incident occurred I thought that after the shiva I would build a complete memorial site for all of the girls, but I noticed that 150 people had logged in to check the site," says Aufgang, who works as a freelance computer and web design consultant. So he then put a simple picture of a memorial candle and a place where people could e-mail in messages to the families.

Within 10 minutes he received the first message from Colombia, and hundreds of condolence messages from around the world followed. From Argentina to Australia, Chile to Croatia, over 3,000 people have visited the site and almost 1,000 have written messages to the families and the friends of the girls who were killed.

Many of the letters were from people who had suffered similar tragedies, from parents in Dobruja, Auckland and Buenos Aires. The British parents of the soldier who was killed in the recent helicopter crash wrote: "To all the families who so tragically lost their daughters, we can only say that we share your pain and anguish, even though we know that you are all mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters each mourning in your own separate ways for each of your seven daughters. We share your pain, and can imagine your grief, because we lost our son Gidon in the helicopter disaster on 4 February."

"May the memory of your loved ones be blessed."

American Jonathan Gersht wrote: "Almost a year ago, I lost 11 dear friends in a plane crash when Commerce Secretary Ross Brown and 35 others lost their lives when their plane crashed into a mountainside in Delaware, Croatia. Every single day of my life since then I struggle with the thought: Now, whenever I hear of an incident when lives are lost on a large scale, I can empathize in a way most others can't."

With the help of a friend, Aufgang had a website set up and delivered to Prime Minister Netanyahu and King Hussein, as well as to the Israeli and British embassies. "One mother wrote that it was very difficult to make a memorial site for her daughter, but she was able to do so after she visited the website," Aufgang says. "The website is a place where people can express their grief and find support from others who have experienced similar tragedies."

He is also designing a web page for each of the seven girls, with pictures that were taken on their last trip and details about them called from their friends and families. "I think it is time-consuming because he goes through each message he receives and posts it on the web to screen out inappropriate letters. Aufgang says that he will keep the site up indefinitely. That's the point. It's a memorial."

— Amy Klein



Tal playing in the city's center, which began to show some signs of life earlier this week after resembling a ghost town for the first four days after the tragedy. (Sark Uziel)

Beit Shemesh not to be "the armpit of Israel."

"What do you want to live in Beit Shemesh for?" Oz quotes a townie as asking him when he sat down at an outside table at a cafe in the center of town. "Forget it. This place is a dump, and will always be a dump."

Why a dump? "There's nothing here: people work, eat watch TV, go to sleep; and that's it. And on Shabbat they chew sunflower seeds."

Oz then went on to chronicle a conversation he had with the local folk, with "Moshe and Shimon, Shalom and Aviv, Injo and Albert, Avram, the other Shimon and many others." The conversation was full of hate, resentment and fury.

The development town's image took a further battering because of a campaign incident in 1988, when a local man poured a cup of water on Shimon Peres. The incident met with outrage at the time, but also a certain understanding, a feeling of, "Oh well, that's Beit Shemesh, it's to be expected."

As a result of this baggage, but a few pundits commented Sunday that they were "pleasantly surprised" by the way the city reacted to the news of the horror from Naharayim, and the way Beit Shemesh greeted King Hussein.

It was meant as a compliment. But the city elders, if not surprised by this surprise, were certainly put off by it.

"What this shows is that it is easier to change a city than to change a stereotype," said Etoile Gabai, an adviser to Beit Shemesh Mayor Danny Vaknin. "Look, Amos Oz came here a long time ago. He wrote about the city then. Now it is different. It is like seeing a child when he is three, and then again at 20, and asking why at 20 he doesn't act like he did when he was three. It's not fair."

"I know the residents of my town," Vaknin said, sitting with a black tie and black shirt in his office, just having escorted a Labor Party delegation, headed by Peres, to the homes of the bereaved. "I was not surprised."

BEIT SHEMESH today is very different from when Oz visited. Ask residents why they moved to Beit Shemesh, and the changes become apparent.

In the 1960s, nobody wanted to move to Beit Shemesh. It's where they ended up, where they were sent. Asher Elbaz, a local

insurance agent, is a case in point. "We came here in 1961 from Morocco," he says. "We didn't know about Beit Shemesh, we were sent here. We never used to want to admit we were from Beit Shemesh. We would say that we lived 'near Jerusalem.'"

Ya'acovov, the photo-studio owner, also didn't know of Beit Shemesh when he arrived from Tashkent in 1990. He went there because relatives he was staying with in Ramot had had enough. One of the relatives knew Beit Shemesh because he worked at the Beit Shemesh Engines plant, and pointed Ya'acovov, his wife and two children in that direction.

Zwebner, however, came in 1993 by choice. She wasn't sent by the "institutions," or pointed there by relatives. A mother of three, she lives in a new neighborhood of cottages near completion on the outskirts of Beit Shemesh. Enter her two-story, sun-lit, tastefully furnished house, with a view of

wood covered hills, and you are immediately struck by the feeling. "Wow, this is Beit Shemesh?"

Zwebner says her family, as well as many of the English-speaking families in the community, was not motivated to move to Beit Shemesh because of cheaper housing. Rather, she said, the family moved there because they had relatives there, liked the view, and the community's feel.

"There used to be a stigma attached to the city," said Mashe Shmuel, standing in Studin Greisha, buying one lottery ticket after another. Shmuel, 40, has lived in the city for 39 years, ever since his parents immigrated from India when he was one year old. "There was a time when we would be embarrassed to say we were from Beit Shemesh. It was all immigrants from the east, primitives. Now that's different. All the new neighborhoods have brought in other people. There is more greenery, the town looks better."

The turnaround, says Kathy Sheeret, director of Vaknin's office, was in 1991, when the government, faced with a massive influx of immigrants from the Soviet Union, saw massive land reserves near Beit Shemesh and decided to add them to the city.

Plans call for the construction of some 29,000 units on the hills south of Beit Shemesh, an area called Ramat Beit Shemesh. The first 3,700 units will be ready for occupation in the summer. In addition, massive building is taking place inside "old" Beit Shemesh as well.

Within a little more than a year, some 1,350 units will have

been built.

The tenants, she says, are no longer the tired and poor, but the upwardly mobile who can afford in Beit Shemesh what they could only dream about in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv, where most came to work.

The city has some 1,100 families from the former Soviet Union, as well as 400 families from English-speaking countries, Sheeret said. They are changing both the face, and the feel, of the city.

"My son is the only native Hebrew speaker in his kindergarten," Sheeret continued. "Once a year the parents have to come in and explain what they do, and this year they are talking about being lawyers, dentists, computer specialists." A far cry from the Beit Shemesh of popular perception.

With the growth come the problems, but the problems are like those of any other city, or any other neighborhood. Beit Shemesh is not the first place where Russians live next to families who originated from Morocco, and where friction arises because of the proximity.

It is also not the only city with rehabilitating drug addicts and pockets of unemployed. The difference between the town now, and how it was back then, is that now these pockets do not define the town. There is much more to it. The drug addicts and unemployed stigmatized the town, Sheeret said. Now the stigma is that Beit Shemesh is becoming haredi.

Sheeret, apparently worried that this could also chase people away, quickly tries to dispel it, saying there is only one haredi neighborhood in town, and that she does not know of plans to turn Ramat Beit Shemesh into Bnei Brak.

Sheeret does not give the impression that her words were spontaneous, but rather - as one of the city's "salespeople" - she has needed to repeat them often in the past.

Perhaps, she jokes, the changing stigma is in itself a sign of the town's progress.

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# The twisted path of military justice

The military court which convicted Rami Dotan described his crimes as 'unprecedented in their gravity.' Yet the decision to release him was almost inevitable, Dan Izenberg reports



Dotan has been described as being chronically ill - and a chronic liar. (AP)

The High Court of Justice has one month to decide whether the precarious health of ex-Brigadier-General Rami Dotan, convicted in March 1991 of exploiting his senior Air Force position to embezzle \$12 million from the government, takes precedence over the gravity of the crimes he committed and the ongoing damage it has caused the state.

Last week, a military court appointed to hear Dotan's appeal to be released from jail after serving half of his 13-year sentence ruled in his favor, citing his chronically poor state of health as the reason for its decision.

The ruling has aroused a storm of protest in the army, among national figures including President Ezer Weizman, in the media and the public. MKs Yossi Sarid and Yossi Katz, the Movement for Quality Government and Amital, the Citizens for Good Government movement, have petitioned the High Court, the only body empowered to overrule the military court.

Justice Eliezer Goldberg decided on Tuesday that the High Court would hear the petitions before April 22, the date of Dotan's scheduled release.

Dotan must be one of the most hated people in Israel because of the scale of his crimes and the fact that he was a senior officer in the IDF, still popularly regarded as an oasis of purity and idealism in an increasingly self-serving and often corrupt ruling elite.

President Weizman, a former air force commander, set a presidential precedent by asking Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein to petition the High Court against the decision, writing that Dotan's "crime is extremely severe in its own right and in terms of the damage it has caused the nation. The entire Israeli public is shocked by the gravity of his deeds."

The three-man committee appointed to consider Dotan's appeal included Colonel Mordechai Levy, head of the Southern Command Military Court, Colonel Motti Mark, Chief Army Mental Health Officer and representative of the Chief of General Staff, and attorney Nimrod Eshkol, the representative of Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai.

The committee's ruling has not yet been officially published.

However, according to Dotan's lawyer, Daniel Friedman, the decision to grant his client an early release was unanimous. Mark wanted to release Dotan immediately. Eshkol wanted to release him after he had completed seven years of his sentence. The compromise was April 22. The committee based its decision on the state of Dotan's health. "All the members of the committee," wrote Levi, "were convinced that because he did not know what was going on, even though the case involved the worst criminal in the history of the army and even though he had a personal representative on the committee."

**"The entire Israeli public is shocked by the gravity of his deeds."**

—President Ezer Weizman

to his life, the effective prison sentence must be significantly reduced and most of it converted to a suspended sentence.

Friedman told *The Jerusalem Post* that Dotan's blood pressure is extremely high - 200/140 - and that he has suffered three strokes in the past year. "His blood pressure cannot be reduced because he cannot take any more drugs," said Friedman. "Releasing him from jail could save his life because being in prison adds to his stress which increases his blood pressure. His doctors say that if he is set free, there is a chance he won't die."

STRANGELY enough, given the severity of his crimes, which the military court that convicted him described as "unprecedented in their gravity and scale in the history of IDF jurisprudence," the committee's decision to release him was almost inevitable. The

is no one else to present the state's case. Given the committee's dual and conflicting role, the defense has the clear advantage.

During the first two committee hearings, Friedman presented several medical experts to testify about Dotan's precarious health. Afterwards, on his own initiative, the committee summoned witnesses from the army and the Defense Ministry to explain why it was dangerous to set Dotan free. One of them, Defense Ministry investigator Gad Waterman, warned that Dotan, whom he described as a congenital liar, would cause serious harm by maliciously exploiting dormant US suspicions that he had been acting as an agent of the Israeli government which had used him to siphon off money for secret IDF military projects not eligible for US aid.

Confronted on the other hand by a professional, determined and

energetic lawyer, the committee was not convinced by the state's arguments.

In most cases, the army does not care about the imbalanced structure of the committee because it prefers to see prisoners released from its chronically congested jails. In fact, according to Friedman, the committee has approved early release in 92 percent of the cases it has heard.

But Dotan is not "most prisoners." In fact, according to the law, because of the length of his sentence, he should have been incarcerated in a civilian prison, where he would have been eligible for release only after completing two-thirds, rather than half, of his sentence. Dotan requested to be imprisoned in a military jail on the grounds that he was privy to state secrets and would be vulnerable to criminals in jail, who might extract them by brute force. But some claim the real reason for Dotan's request was that he knew he would be able to get out of a military jail more than two years earlier.

The other strange thing about this case is that even though both Mordechai and Chief of General-Staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak had personal representatives on the committee and even thought the hearings stretched over a period of seven months, neither knew about it until the committee's decision was published.

Mordechai was not embarrassed to tell the *Post* that he had no prior information about the decision which the committee was about to make. Had he known, he would have done whatever was in his power and prerogative to prevent such a decision.

It is not clear whether Mordechai could in fact have done anything because, despite its relatively low status, the committee is so independent as to be under no superior scrutiny other than that of the High Court of Justice. But, by his own admission, he did not try because he did not know what was going on, even though the case involved the worst criminal in the history of the army and even though he had a personal representative on the committee.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL (Res.) Shalom Ben-Moshe was one of the many people shocked by the decision to release Dotan. The committee failed "to consult with people who would have presented all of the other relevant factors such as the effect of his release on our relations with the US and on the morale of the army and the air force," said Ben-Moshe, who served as commander of the Military Police during Dotan's investigation. "The court did not summon people who could have explained the effect of the decision on the general public. The Dotan case is an ethical and moral issue."

Ben-Moshe charged that the court ignored the enormity of Dotan's crime. "Dotan was a senior army officer," he said. "We expect senior officers to behave in an exemplary manner. But Dotan betrayed his superiors, including the commander of the air force who put his faith in him and gave him his backing until the very last second. Dotan lied to him."

"He betrayed the air force, where he was raised, and he betrayed his subordinates whom he taught and who believed in him. Dotan ordered them to do things. They did them, even though they knew they were illegal, because they believed in him. He betrayed the sacred values of friendship and the army."

## Avi Kostner is on trial in New Jersey for killing his children. He didn't want them to be raised as Christians, Marilyn Henry reports



Kostner in court: Driven by religious zeal or sheer evil? (AP)

Avi Kostner was losing his children. He couldn't bear it, and so he killed them. Allen "Avi" Kostner, who has a history of instability, says he killed his children to protect them from his ex-wife's Christianity. This month, a jury in New Jersey will sentence Kostner for the murders of his children, Geri Beth, 12, and Ryan, 10. In confusing appearances in court, Kostner, now 52, has angrily asked for the death penalty, saying that he had not been allowed to explain himself.

"When it was time to 'explain,' he cited religion. 'We are part of the tribe of Levi,' he said. 'That takes us back 3,700 years. These were my children. My children cannot be raised as Christians. I am not the first father in history to kill his children to prevent conversion,' he said in an agitated statement to the court. 'I could not allow their Jewish souls to be cut off from Judaism. It has happened before in Jewish history, during the Crusades, the Inquisition - fathers killed their own children to prevent them from being converted.'"

Kostner and his ex-wife, Lynn Mison, had been mired in a bitter dispute over custody and money since 1986.

They had married in 1979, separated in 1985, and divorced in 1988. Mison, who had converted to Judaism after her marriage to Kostner, had renounced Judaism after their divorce. She remarried and was raising her children as Christians.

On June 26, 1994, Kostner took his children out to dinner, then to a movie, then bowling. Then he gave tranquilizers to Geri Beth and Ryan, put them in a van and tried to poison them with carbon monoxide, according to oews accounts.

Kostner's son died of carbon-monoxide poisoning. It was not so easy with his daughter. She regained consciousness and tried to escape, so Kostner strangled her. Then he took 64 tranquilizers. With the bodies of his children in the back of the bonowed van, Kostner was found near the police station in Teaneck, New Jersey, slumped over the wheel in what looked like a drug overdose.

At the time, Kostner was an unemployed cab driver under psychiatric care for depression. "In another time and place, he would have been known as the shield schnorrer," a neighbor once told one of the local newspapers. Kostner was a "charity member" of the Teaneck community, according to news accounts. He lived in a borrowed apartment and got free food from local restaurants. He had borrowed the car he used to murder his children.

Kostner's primary occupation seems to have been going to court to get greater access to his children, and he filed more than 150 motions and legal briefs in Family Court saying that Mison had violated his visitation rights. In 1992, he appeared at a rally for divorced fathers, standing in front of the

county courthouse wearing a sandwich board that said: "I divorced her, not them." Also on the board was a swastika, presumably showing that the family-court system resembled Nazism. And Kostner was wearing a yellow star, which read "Dad."

Court records, however, also show that Geri Beth and Ryan pleaded with the court to be spared from spending time with Kostner. Originally from Hempstead,

### He once appeared at a rally for divorced fathers, wearing a yellow star which read 'Dad.'

New York, Kostner reportedly has battled mental illness since the age of 11. Last week, he told the court of his childhood, which included the drunken spells of his mother and beatings by his stepfather.

Kostner was a confounding mystery to many in Teaneck who tried to assist him, according to local news accounts. He misrepresented his past, saying he was a college graduate, possibly from the Hebrew University, although it appears he was a high-school drop-out. He lived in Israel in the 1960s, working on kibbutzim and waiting tables in Eilat. According

to one press account, he was briefly married to an unidentified Israeli woman in 1967, and returned to the US a year later when that marriage ended. Kostner claimed he had participated in the liberation of Jerusalem during the Six Day War, although reporters could find no record of Kostner's Israeli citizenship or military service.

In New Jersey, Kostner had occasional part-time work as a cab driver and Hebrew teacher. He led a local scouting troop, and a few months before the murder, had won the Shofar award from the national Jewish Committee on Scouting for "outstanding service by adults in the promotion of scouting among Jewish youth." He often referred to himself as a "professional Jew," according to a report in *The Jewish Standard*, a weekly newspaper in northern New Jersey.

In court last week, Kostner said the murders "were committed out of sheer desperation."

He blamed Mison, the court that gave her custody of the children, and the rabbi to whom he turned for help. "I only wanted to put an end to the pain, anguish and suffering that took over our lives," he said.

Although the death penalty was restored in New Jersey in 1983, it has been sought by prosecutors less than a half-dozen times. It is not clear what arguments would sway or discourage a jury. It also is not clear what Kostner believes.

At a psychiatric facility where he was held shortly after the murders, Kostner told a Teaneck rabbi, David Feldman, "I didn't know I had this evil in me."

"He said 'evil,'" Feldman said. "He knows it wasn't religious zeal."

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هكذا من النجيب



THE WEEK THAT WAS

# PM's somersault spins heads

By MICHAL YUDELMAN

Bulky he may be, but Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu managed to surprise followers and opponents alike with an acrobatic policy back-flip. Trying to follow it gave Palestinians a pain in the neck.

Netanyahu's more devious supporters said his proposal to cut directly to permanent settlement negotiations and dispoose with the interim Oslo agreements was a good way to avoid Oslo pitfalls. What they really meant was that it is a good way to circumvent the entire Oslo process.

The moribund Labor opposition at first was not sure how to regard this somersault. Shimon Peres and Yossi Beilin said it was out a bad idea. Ehud Barak said it depends.

Only Ephraim Sneh had a quick-fire response: "Netanyahu doesn't want a permanent settlement. He wants a permanent war."

"Har-Homa was only the beginning of Netanyahu's campaign to sabotage the Oslo interim agreements," said Sneh. "He doesn't begin to understand what a disaster he is bringing on us."

To ensure there were no misunderstandings, Netanyahu made it clear the new policy had nothing to do with any idea of a national unity government. His government needs broad public support, not a change in composition, he said.

Timely insight of the week came from Labor MK Shevah Weiss - before Netanyahu's new policy was known.

Weiss said every time Netanyahu tries to edge towards peace in a decent, non-provocative way, he proves he cannot pull it off without Labor's help. "Now look at what a ridiculous position Labor has put itself in," said Weiss.

"It's offering Netanyahu a parliamentary safety net to do something he cannot possibly do without the opposition. Netanyahu then takes credit for it and adds 'only the Likud can.'"

"Well, the Likud can't. I say to them, if you can do it, fine. If you can't, quit. Or make Labor a serious offer of partnership on the basis of the peace process and a fair division of portfolios and responsibility."

## IN DEFENSE OF MINISTRY

Labor front-runner Ehud Barak fired a leadership cannon with an oncompromising stand against the occasional unity government idea.

If Peres keeps coyly edging towards such an arrangement, Barak seems determined to lead the Labor sectors opposed to the idea. "I can see no reason to join this rotten government of disgrace and failure," says he. He didn't add, "especially if Shimon Peres while still party leader gets



MK Shevah Weiss's insight of the week: Netanyahu needs Labor more than he thinks he does. (Isaac Harari)

offered the senior portfolio." The unvarnished fact is no one has made any offer. This in no way inhibits Peres and a group of hopeful MKs from launching armadas of Purim trial balloons.

Pure seasonal fantasy? Well, maybe not entirely. At a meeting between Peres and several parliamentarians in Jerusalem's prestigious Taverna restaurant this week, the MKs received a distinct impression from Peres that Netanyahu has actually made up his mind to seek a unity govern-

ment. Or rather, they understood that in Peres's recent tete-a-tete with Netanyahu, the two had not only discussed the issue but agreed that if, perchance, a unity government should miraculously surface, Peres would be the defense minister.

That raises the question of whether Netanyahu is considering a unity government for the talks on a permanent settlement.

Peres and the MKs discussed the party's position. The guess was Peres could be assured of 70 percent support in the Labor central committee if a cast-iron offer were made. Some MKs also expressed confidence that even Barak could be persuaded to bury his objections if offered a portfolio that was "heavy-duty" enough.

Like defense. Ah, but how unfortunate that one already appears spoken for - if only in the alleged Bibi-Peres conversation. Peres hotly denied "galloping" headlong with the unity bit between his teeth. But he did stress he would do anything to save the peace process.

Back in reality land, it remains clear even to Peres that a unity government idea could not be discussed until the Bar-On affair is concluded - and then only if Netanyahu emerges from it spotless.

By which time, Purim and its whimsy while have passed and, as usual, we will be somewhere else.

## GRAPEVINE

# Yossi Beilin a sex symbol?

By GREER FAY CASHMAN



Brody on the ball (David Philipson)

WHILE THEY might have some reservations about his leadership abilities, few people would doubt the negotiating skills of Labor leadership hopeful Yossi Beilin. Sex appeal is another question altogether. But apparently it's going to be an issue in the upcoming leadership elections. Otherwise, why would a group calling itself Women for Yossi Beilin be campaigning on his behalf?

MOST OF the real heavyweights in the insurance business were amongst the 350 insurance agents and brokers who attended the three-day Insurance '97 conference at the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza in Jerusalem. But the participant most familiar to other guests mingling in the lobby was former star hoopster Tal Brody, who 20 years ago led Maccabi Tel Aviv to victory in the European Cup finals. In the insurance game for the past 15 years,



Levy: Scrutinizer of mezuzot (Isaac Harari)

Brody still stumbles over Hebrew grammar, but he's right on the ball when it comes to policies.

SOMETHING ISN'T kosher in the ministerial realm. Not every government minister makes the trouble to check out whether the mezuzot in his domain are kosher. But considering that Transportation Minister Yitzhak Levy comes from the National Religious camp, it was on the cards that he would eventually get around to examining the mezuzot in his orbit. Of the 180 mezuzot that he looked at, 175 were flawed. To Levy, this signified a red alert to the condition of mezuzot in other ministries and in branch offices of his own ministry. The question now is whether the cost of replacing the mezuzot will come out of the budgets of the individual ministries, whether it is the responsibility of the Religious Affairs Ministry or whether the squeeze will have to be put on the Finance Ministry.

CONSIDERING HIS own opposition to smoking, Oded Lifshitz, general manager of the Israel Hiltons, did not put in an appearance to greet members of the cigar smokers club when they met for dinner this week at the Tel Aviv Hilton where he is headquartered. But the hotel's resident manager Ronald van Weezel who has been smoking cigars since 1988 when he gave up cigarettes, was puffing in style along with television personality Yigal Shilon who is president of club and Tel Aviv Mayor Roni Milo who happily puffed away at a somewhat smaller version of what Christopher Columbus described as a fire stick. While he obviously relished his smoke, Milo refused to be photographed with a cigar in his

hand. With elections coming up, he figured it just wasn't right for his image.

WHEN HE turned 70 last May, Jerusalem-based journalist Richard Oestermann asked relatives and friends in Israel and abroad not to buy him gifts but to contribute trees to the Jewish National Fund. He had expected 70 trees, but well over 10 times that number were purchased in his name. The sum total of trees has since grown to 1,100, including 75 contributed by Dagen, the Norwegian newspaper for which he writes. Oestermann had hoped to have a tree-planting ceremony on Tu Bishvat or thereabouts, but the weather was not conducive. So he postponed it till last week, taking some 25 people from all over the country to Tarom, a hilltop location near Beit Shemesh, where they planted trees.

VENERABLE DIPLOMAT though he may be, Gideon Rafael, the former director general of the Foreign Ministry, is not backward in coming forward. In fact when he rose to both make a statement and



Olmert: On a collision course (Isaac Harari)

ask a question following the address by US ambassador Martin Indyk to the Israel Council on Foreign Relations, he ignored the microphones on either side of the Laromne Hotel's banquet room and mounted the dais to usurp Indyk's own position. There was much good-natured laughter from the many diplomats and policy makers in attendance.

THERE ARE few things that will prevent Jerusalem mayor Ehud Olmert from attending a weekend soccer match. But there are times when civic responsibilities take priority over his enthusiasm for the game. Earlier this month, for instance, he was involved in a mild collision with one of his constituents.

Olmert himself evacuated the man from his car, drove him to Magen David Adom, hung around

while he was being treated and then drove him home. He also remembered to inquire about his welfare and to send him flowers the following day.

HAVING CELEBRITIES in the neighborhood makes life that much simpler for community organizations casting around for a guest speaker. The committee of the Beit Yisrael congregation in Jerusalem's picturesque Yemin Moshe neighborhood didn't have to look very far when it launched its new lecture series. Distinguished poet Yehuda Amichai happily responded to the invitation to talk and read from his own works at the congregation's recently restored synagogue.

THEY'RE NOT part of a regular group, none of them has Irish roots, but they all love Irish music. Which made St. Patrick's Day as good a reason as any for singers and instrumentalists Mike Edelman from England, Aron Gutman and Andrea Jacobs from the US and



Goldie's secret? 'Green Juice' (Isaac Harari)

Israeli Vered Eyal to get together informally at Jerusalem's quaint eatery-cum-library Tmol Shilshon. Eyal, a flutist and singer, is actually a member of a band which specializes in Irish music, but she had no trouble harmonizing with Edelman, Gutman and Jacobs, whose spirited gigs and melancholy dirges started at 11 p.m. and continued to well beyond the witching hour.

SHEER SURVIVAL has contributed to the popularity of elder statesman Abba Eban, who is much in demand these days to share his reminiscences of events leading up to the United Nations resolution on the partition of Palestine and the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel. Eban, who has outlived most of the leading figures in that particular chapter of Jewish history, is currently in New York, where he is being swamped with requests to tell it as it was.

IN ADDITION to being a fitness freak, Goldie Hawk, 51, maintains her youthful image with a daily dose of Green Juice, the ingredients of which are celery, parsley and green pepper. She also steers clear of sugar and dairy products, but occasionally indulges in burgers and French fries. Kurt Russell, who is Hawk's significant other, this week celebrated his 46th birthday.

IN HIS screen roles, Walter Matthau is often cast as the anti-heroic victim of circumstance. It happens to him in real life as well. Matthau paid out an advance of \$93,000 to a contractor to have his home renovated, but the work was not completed, leaving Matthau out of pocket and in a mess. The matter will be settled in court.

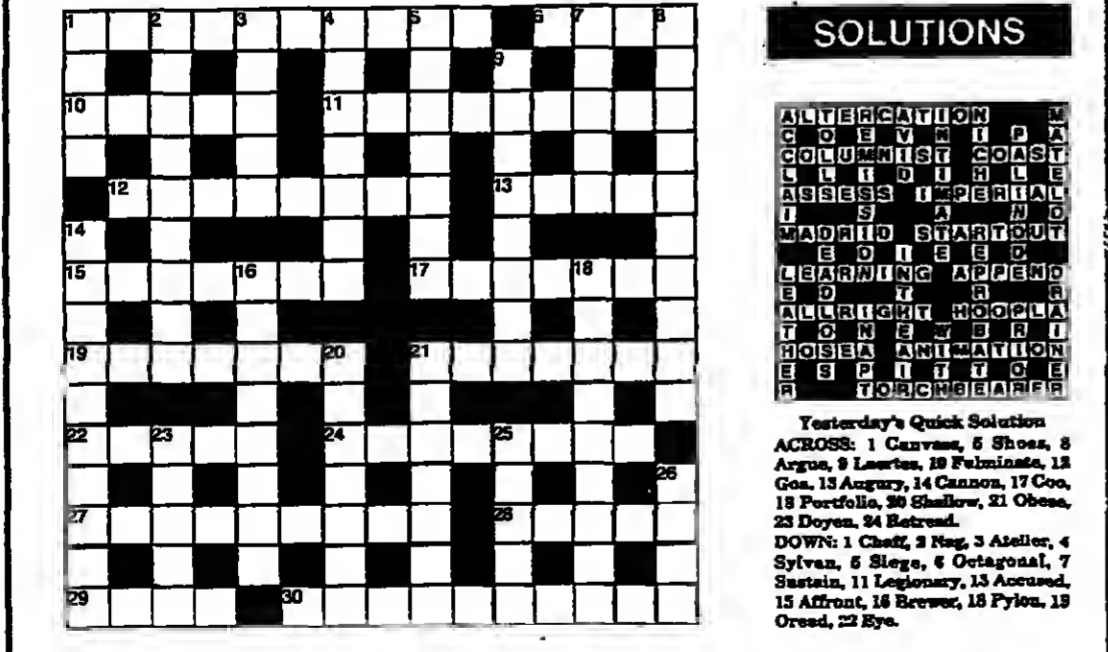
## BRULIK

by DOSH



## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Slater maybe gets into difficulties without the boss (10)
  - 6 Avoid editing a missing poet (4)
  - 10 This drifter isn't crazy (5)
  - 11 The shabby fellow in the field will frighten one of the birds (9)
  - 12 Make declaration without thought to dim solicitor (5,3)
  - 13 A theatre's stage-door has such a lock (5)
  - 15 Account 13 essential for the thespian (7)
  - 17 In tears, moved by drink (7)
  - 19 Start sprouting if not lacking natural light (7)
  - 21 A bothersome dog? (7)
  - 22 Go round or part (5)
  - 24 Absolute monarch at a court occasion (8)
  - 27 Retired man finding an object in routine work (9)
  - 28 An article to enjoy all the same (5)
  - 29 She's English and coming back (4)
  - 30 Its present form is lasting well (10)
- DOWN**
- 1 A thinker to shrink from (4)
  - 2 Not involved—not backing up the fool (9)
  - 3 An ancient wood (5)
  - 4 Catches girls with nothing inside them (7)
  - 5 Spread awful scare about out drinking (7)
  - 7 Some clever oew writer of science-fiction (5)
  - 8 Having words—it's an undisciplined Lower House! (10)
  - 9 The man willing to have a go at the alternative (8)
  - 14 Hand one over at one point, being enthusiastic (10)
  - 16 Raising rice, oote yield (8)
  - 18 Following one child around at four (9)
  - 20 Coastal area which sets the South-east apart (7)
  - 21 They provide capital covert (7)
  - 23 Making a scholar study a philosopher (5)
  - 25 A level hundred pounds will go on dope (5)
  - 26 This is considered material (4)



## SOLUTIONS



Yesterday's Quick Solution  
**ACROSS:** 1 Caravan, 5 Shosa, 8 Angus, 9 Leesies, 10 Palmiste, 13 Gos, 15 Augury, 14 Cannon, 17 Coo, 18 Portfollo, 20 Shallow, 21 Obese, 23 Doyan, 24 Retread.  
**DOWN:** 1 Cheat, 2 Png, 3 Asteter, 4 Sylvan, 5 Slops, 6 Octagonal, 7 Sastain, 11 Legenary, 13 Aconrad, 15 Affrant, 16 Beevow, 18 Pylon, 19 Oread, 22 Eye.

## QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 5 Cartoon mouse (5)
  - 8 Citrus fruit (8)
  - 9 Horrify (5)
  - 10 Soak (8)
  - 11 Stoneworker (5)
  - 14 Age (3)
  - 16 Abbey (6)
  - 17 Hurt (6)
  - 18 Newt (3)
  - 20 Country (5)
  - 24 Cherish (8)
  - 25 Foe (5)
  - 26 Wisdom (8)
  - 27 Profundity (5)
- DOWN**
- 1 Shatzer (5)
  - 2 Merge (5)
  - 3 Wed (5)
  - 4 Healthier (6)
  - 6 Stress (8)
  - 7 Well thought out (8)
  - 12 Hoax (8)
  - 13 Scorn (8)
  - 14 View (3)
  - 15 Appropriate (3)
  - 19 Shape (6)
  - 21 Man-made waterway (5)
  - 22 Sensational (5)
  - 23 Famous diarist (5)

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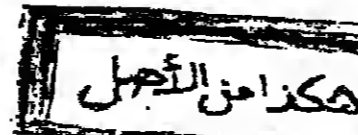
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# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## BITS & BYTES

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

### Ampal-American invests \$1m. in Unic View

Ampal-American Israel Corporation, a New York-based company that acquires interests in businesses located in Israel or that are Israel-related, has announced an investment of \$1 million to acquire a 7.25 percent interest in Unic View Ltd., a privately held Israeli company.

### Check Point licenses Security-7's technology

Check Point Software Technologies Ltd. (Nasdaq:CHKPF) has announced that it will integrate Security-7 Ltd.'s technology into its Firewall-1 Internet and intranet security solution.

### ESG Medical receives FDA approval

ESG Medical Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq:ESCMF) has announced that it has received clearance from the US Food and Drug Administration to market its Topaz 30 surgical CO2 laser system in the US.

The system is used for both general and surgical dermatological applications, including fast-growing skin resurfacing applications. ESG Medical manufactures a host of medical devices that treat such conditions as varicose veins, hair removal and skin cancer.

### HP shows its smarts on Internet transactions

Hewlett-Packard Co. (NYSE:HWP), the international computer company based in northern California, has announced a new line of products that will allow businesses and home-computer users to safely conduct transactions or work on confidential business projects over the Internet or via intranets.

The Præsidium line, a smart-card system which is due for release next month, is designed to make Internet commerce and intranet business more secure.

### NetManage sells to CommerzBank

NetManage, Inc. (Nasdaq:NETM) has announced that Commerzbank AG of Germany has selected its Chameleon NFS software for its 10,000 PCs.

The size of the deal was not disclosed by the Frankfurt-based bank or the computer firm. NetManage, which has three R&D centers in Israel, develops an integrated set of application, server and development tool software for the Microsoft Windows, Windows 95, Windows NT and Mac OS platforms.

### Nice signs \$530,000 Austrian air deal

Nice Systems Ltd. (Nasdaq:NICEY) of Tel Aviv has signed a deal to sell \$530,000 worth of its digital voice-logging and archiving systems to the Austrian Air Traffic Control Authority. The system, called the NiceLog Digital Voice-Logging System, records air traffic.

The company has customers in the United States, Germany, Hong Kong, Israel, Hungary, Romania, Norway, Holland, Iceland and Switzerland.

### Organics, AltaRex get \$600,000 funding

Israel's Organics (Amex:GNX) and AltaRex Corp., which is based in the Canadian state of Alberta, have announced that they received approval of \$600,000 in funding support from the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation for a joint research and development project.

The project will combine the technical and commercial expertise of the two companies in the development of in vitro immunoassays that can monitor the treatment progress of cancer patients from a doctor's office. The companies will share the funding equally.

## Meridor: Slash tariffs on Jordanian imports

By DAVID HARRIS

Israel must reduce, and in some cases altogether remove, tariffs on imports from Jordan, whether in a joint agreement or unilaterally, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said yesterday.

Speaking in Jerusalem at the first national symposium on expanding trade with neighboring states, Meridor admitted that too much bureaucracy on the Israeli side is hindering the development of economic ties, particularly in infrastructure projects along the Jordan Valley.

Meanwhile, senior Treasury and Foreign Ministry officials called on Jordan to consider entering negotiations to create a free-trade agreement, which could also include the Palestinian Authority.

Pointing to recent border-crossing tariff reductions from the Israeli side, both for freight and passengers (including the reduction of levies on workers from \$5 to \$2), Meridor said the Jordanians have so far failed to respond in kind, despite requests from Israel.

"There really should be equivalent reductions there, but even if they are not forthcoming, it's still worth our while lowering customs and other duties unilaterally," said Meridor.

A bilateral agreement with Jordan would be favorable, said



Oded Eran: Free-trade talks soon.

(David Rubinger)

Customs and VAT Director Moti Ayalon. However, failing this, a unilateral move would certainly not harm Israel's economic interests.

The minister's words were welcomed by a Jordanian economic official, who suggested the joint technical groups should examine the various possibilities for tariff reductions. "Through these committees we can eliminate whatever unnecessary barriers there are, that

prevent trade and joint ventures between the two countries," said the Jordanian official.

However, the official rejected the calls for immediate talks on a free-trade agreement.

Outgoing Treasury director-general David Brodet said such a step, first with the Jordanians, then the Palestinians, with Lebanon and Syria entering down the line, is a direction that has to be pursued.

"We know how to export in

terms of billions to the US, Europe, Far East, Australia and New Zealand," said Brodet. "Yet to the border at Allenby [Bridge], just tens of kilometers away, we can't even move a truck without a problem."

"In terms of the economics you could certainly do it very easily," said Harvard University Middle East economist Robert Lawrence. "It all hinges on the political situation in Jordan."

There is certainly a degree of optimism in government about the commencing of negotiations over a free-trade area with Jordan. "I hope this will happen soon," said Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for economic affairs, Oded Eran.

Turning his attention to the Israeli bureaucracy, Eran said there has to be greater coordination on the part of interested Israeli organizations. "We must speed things up, especially in the Akaba-Eilat area, where things are simply not moving. Look at the [joint Israeli-Jordanian] airport - there are differences of opinion as to which model to adopt."

One solution to the security issues involved in imports and exports in the region would be the creation of joint Middle East transportation companies, suggested Israel Institute of Transportation Planning and Research general manager Gideon Hashimshony.

## Japanese join Dankner in Polish venture

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Japanese trading company Nishio Iwai Corporation is to become a major shareholder alongside the Dankner Group's Matav Cable Systems Media in the private Polish RP Telekom, following a deal estimated to be worth \$26 million over three years, the company announced this week.

Dankner, whose Matav Cable is a regional cable TV operator, is among the leaders of a multinational group of investors which is involved in the privatization of Poland's telephone services.

Matav, founded in 1987 by Dankner Investments, is shared by Dankner with Hapoalim Electronic Communications and Hanania Gihstein, with each holding about 20 percent of the company.

In a notice to the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange this week, Dankner reported that an agreement was signed Tuesday between Shamrock Holdings, Nishio Iwai & General Electric, Wall Street firm Goldman Sachs, and Matav.

According to the agreement, each partner will hold 11.8% of shares.

## Grain shortage looms in Balkans

ZAGREB (Reuters) - Political upheaval, economic turmoil and the aftermath of war in former Yugoslavia has left southeastern Europe, once rich in grain, struggling to meet its requirements for staple bread.

Serbia, long considered the bread basket of the Balkans, faces a protracted struggle to get its harvests back up to historic levels.

Albania said Tuesday it faced a serious food crisis because of looting of government reserves and the collapse of the trading system during the current unrest.

Officials hope that the special highly paid government police can prevent further looting of grain reserves, estimated at 80,000 tons.

Bulgarians have been queuing for bread. The prosecutor-general is investigating whether charges of negligence would be justified against the ex-farm minister for exporting more than 827,280 tons of grain for 7.141 billion leva (NIS 16 million) from the 1994-1995 harvest.

Romania, once an exporter, may have to import to cover grain shortages in the first half of this year.

Croatia is likely to have to import wheat this year, despite an increase in output, and farmers in Hungary cannot afford fertilizer.

Western experts see imports slowing and harvests getting bigger. But exact figures are hard to pinpoint, they said in response to a Reuters survey of the region's grain crisis.

"Unfortunately agricultural production here is in the hands of God and the entire production relies on weather conditions," one Balkan government official said.

Serbia and Montenegro, present-day Yugoslavia, will take at

least seven years to raise output to pre-1991 levels, according to a senior government official. The country faces a shortage after its worst harvest in 25 years and excessive exports last year.

Industry sources say Yugoslavia recently bought up to 100,000 tons from Argentina, France, Germany, Austria and Hungary.

Yugoslavia needs around 500,000 tons of wheat before the new harvest to secure an estimated 2.5 million tons needed to feed its 10 million people and around 500,000 refugees, analysts say.

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### NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF ORDINARY STOCK

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Bank will be held at its Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, on Tuesday, 1st April 1997 at 10:00 in the forenoon, for the purpose of passing the following Resolutions:

- 1. TO APPROVE an increase in the amount of cover of the Directors' and Officers' Liability Insurance Policies of the Bank and the Group by an additional U.S.\$10 million.
- 2. TO APPROVE the granting of an indemnity to the Directors and other Officers of the Bank in connection with the prospectus of the Bank.
- 3. TO APPROVE the payment of a bonus to the Chairman of the Board of Directors in connection with his contribution to the realization of the Bank's surplus holdings in real corporations.

A member entitled to attend and vote may appoint a proxy or proxies to attend and vote on his or her behalf. A proxy need not be a member of the Bank.

Tel Aviv, 21st March, 1997

By Order of the Board  
Jennifer Jones, Adv.  
Secretary

Details of the insurance policies and their cost, and the full text of the resolutions concerning the purchase of the additional insurance coverage, and the approval of the granting of indemnities to the Directors and other Officers of the Bank and the approval of the payment of the bonus may be examined at the office of the Secretariat of the Bank at the Bank's Registered Office, 24-32 Yehuda Halevy Street, Tel Aviv, during normal business hours.

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ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table of Israeli shares in New York with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table of Mishtanim leading 100 Tase issues with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table of international shares with columns for stock name, last price, and change.

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TASE ROUNDUP

Shares closed higher yesterday, led by a rise in small-capitalization shares, traders said.

The benchmark Mishtanim index of the top 100 shares gained 1.06 percent, or 2.58 points, to 245.78 on an all-share turnover of NIS 136 million against NIS 110 million Wednesday.

The session opened with nice gains and the indices rose by more than 1.5% led by a sharp rise in small-capitalization shares. But by midday, the trend changed and the market weakened," said a trader at Bank Leumi.

Traders added that foreign investors were active today buying shares.

Africa Israel Investments rose 3.75% to 23,193 agorot. Traders termed the rise a technical rebound after the share suffered heavy losses during the last few weeks. The company reported yesterday that net profit fell in the fourth-quarter of 1996 to NIS 3.4 million from NIS 29.1 million a year earlier.

The most active shares were Bank Leumi, which rose 2% to 548 agorot on turnover of NIS 13.9 million; Teva Pharmaceutical Industries, which gained 1% to 18,627 agorot on volume of NIS 12.4 million; and Bank Hapoalim, which gained 1.75% to 6,642 agorot on volume of NIS 8.9 million. (Reuters)

Shares end higher led by small-caps

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WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

Britain's blue chip FTSE 100 index suffered its biggest one-day fall in point terms of the year so far. It closed 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1, its biggest loss since an 88-point tumble last December.

In Germany the main market focus was the restarting of trade in Thyssen and Krupp-Hoesch after two days of suspension related to Krupp's attempt to produce a merger of their steel businesses. By the close of trade, shares in both companies had moved strongly ahead. The 30-share DAX index closed down 51.26 at 3,264.67.

In Paris, the CAC-40 closed down 43.05 points at 2,553.72.

Wall Street Report

Greenspan pressures Dow

Greenspan said low inflation was needed for a healthy economy and warned: "If we allow (inflation) to get away, we will have set in motion a set of forces that which bring the recovery to an end."

London closed down around 1.75 percent, Germany closed 1.5% off and the Paris bourse had also tumbled well over 1.5% before business ended.

Analysts said the tech stocks were due for a rally after two weeks of heavy selling. Bearish comments by Morgan Stanley's strategist Barton Biggs were deemed excessive by some observers.

Among the big movers, Philip Morris lost 5-3/4 at 116-1/4 on news that state attorneys general are close to a litigation settlement with Liggett, the tobacco unit of Brooke Group Ltd. Brooke Group rose 1/2 at 4-3/4.

Designer Holdings Ltd. fell 2-7/8, or 27%, to 7-3/4 after the sports-wear designer slashed its 1997 sales outlook.

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PROPOSAL

Continued from Page 1

Other US officials yesterday indirectly criticized Netanyahu for publicly announcing his proposal to skip directly to final-status talks, saying that such issues must be brought directly to the Palestinians.

"Our reaction is: Any issues like this need to be talked about between the parties. Any issues that need to be taken on by the US but to each other," a senior US official said.

He added that US officials "don't know what's been proposed," but that whatever it is "needs to be conveyed to the Palestinians."

On the Jordanian cabinet shake-up, the official said the US sees it as a move geared toward the autumn parliament election and has nothing to do with King Hussein's reported criticism of former prime minister Abdi Karim Kabariti's statements on Israel's handling of the Har Homa project.

"This has to do with internal Jordanian politics more than any other issue. It has to do with a desire to project a sense of stability heading into the fall elections," the official said.

Asked about yesterday's confrontation in the Bethlehem State Department, spokesman Nicholas Burns said that the confrontation leading to violence will resolve nothing.

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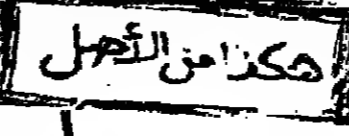
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Israeli cricketers blaze trail to Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR (AP) - Malaysia, which bans all relations with Israel, will allow a group of Israeli sportsmen to visit the country for the first time to play in a cricket tournament.

Hap Jerusalem, Maccabi TA advance to State Cup final

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

Good things are worth waiting for, but Hapoel Jerusalem fans had to wait far too long for their team to awaken from its offensive slumber and polish off Maccabi Ramat Gan, 65-60 in last night's State Cup semifinal.

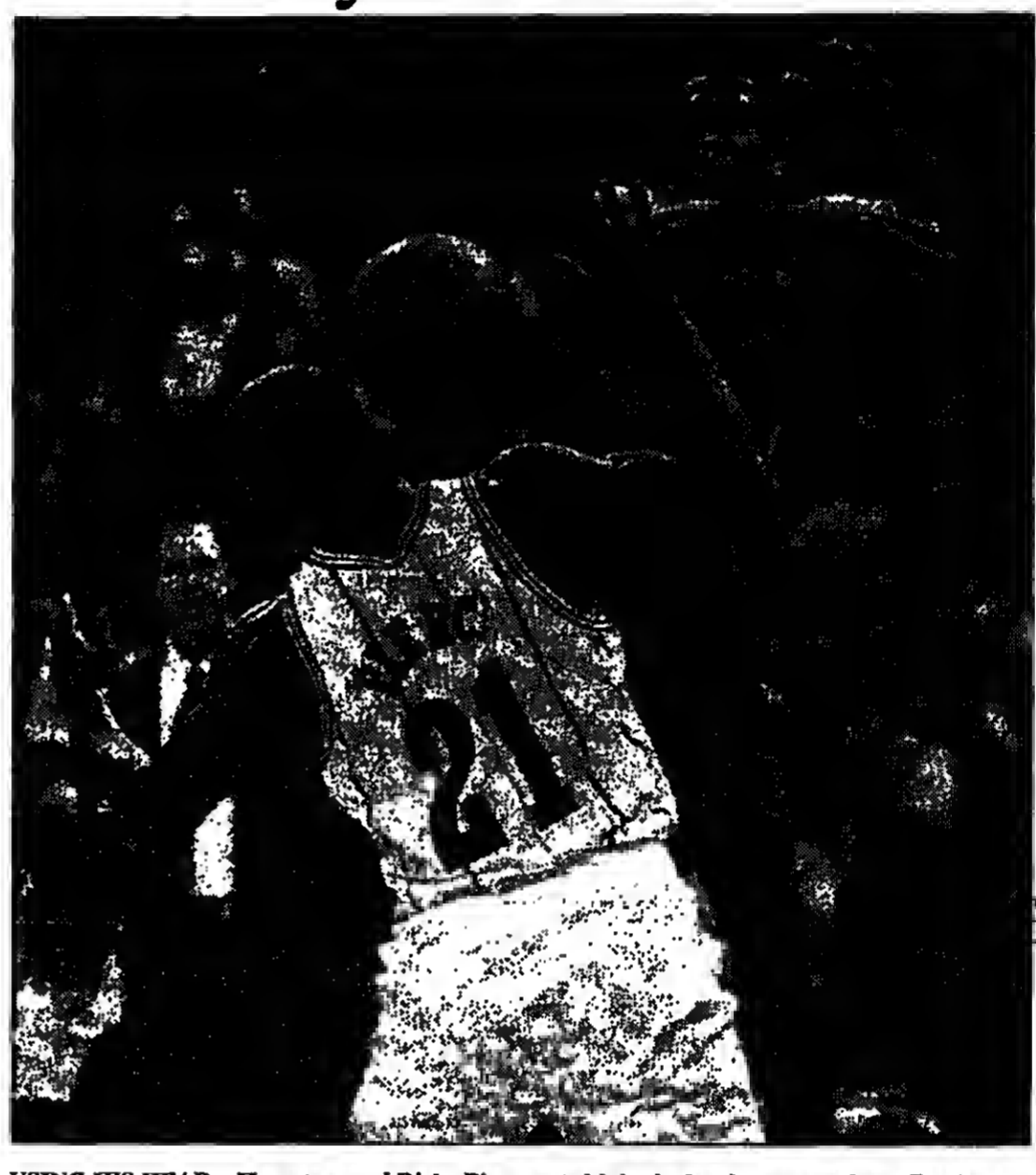
More importantly, Jerusalem missed the presence of Morit Daniel, who left midway through the first half with his third foul. Without him, coach Gadi Kedar's club seemed content to hoist up three-pointers which did not fall.

Maccabi Ramat Gan led by seven, but then Jerusalem started the long climb back. Billy Thompson scoring to make it 35-34 Jerusalem with just over 15 minutes to play.

Ramat Gan tried desperately to get back into the game. Oren Aharoni and Roy Fisher led the charge, but it was too little, too late, giving defending State Cup champion Hapoel Jerusalem its rightful place in the final, where they will once more be matched up against Maccabi Tel Aviv.

Malone passes Jerry West as 10th all-time scorer

BOSTON (AP) - Karl Malone became the 10th leading scorer in NBA history Wednesday night, scoring 32 points as the Utah Jazz cruised to a 113-100 win over the Boston Celtics.



USING HIS HEAD - Hornets guard Ricky Pierce gets hit in the head by a pass from Cavaliers guard Bohhy Phillips during 3rd-quarter action on Wednesday. Charlotte won 90-72.

Malone has 25,200 points, eight more than Jerry West and 413 fewer than Alex English. The Jazz, who finished their seven-game Eastern road trip with a 6-1 record, have rolled to the NBA's second best record and best in the Western Conference.

The Celtics, with 22 losses in their last 24 games, have the NBA's second-worst record and showed why in two stretches - a 13-0 Utah run late in the second period and a 12-0 surge to start the third.

Knicks 111, 76ers 100 Patrick Ewing had 30 points and 13 rebounds for his 38th double-double this season as New York won on the road.

New York has won nine of 11, but its two losses came against sub-.500 teams, the Dallas Mavericks and the New Jersey Nets.

And the Knicks had trouble putting away a Sixers team that is now 2-8 in March and was officially eliminated from the playoffs after Tuesday's loss.

Larry Johnson added 21 for New York, and John Starks, starting for the flu-stricken Allan Houston, had 21. Charles Oakley had 12 rebounds.

Lindros's 4 goals lift Flyers past Leafs

TORONTO (AP) - Eric Lindros scored four goals and added two assists Wednesday night to power the Philadelphia Flyers to a 6-3 victory over the Toronto Maple Leafs.

unbeaten streak to five games as Bill Ranford stopped 29 shots as the Capitals battled to a tie.

Lindros's linemate, Mikael Renberg, had the other two Philadelphia goals.

Ranford and the Capitals are 4-0-1 at home since the goaltender arrived in a trade with Boston on March 1. Washington is tied with idle Hartford for the eighth Eastern Conference playoff berth.

With the victory, the Flyers moved back into first place in the Atlantic Division.

Canadiens 5, Rangers 4 Vincent Damphousse set up one goal and scored another in the third period as Montreal helped its playoff hopes with an away win.

Stars 7, Coyotes 2 Joe Nieuwendyk scored twice and Mike Modano matched his career high with four assists as Dallas remained unbeaten at home in its last eight games.

The Canadiens got off to a 2-0 start and allowed the Rangers to tie them three times before pulling it out on Damphousse's goal at 10:08 of the third period.

Greg Adams, Darryl Sydor and Neal Broten all had a goal and an assist to help the Stars avenge their last home loss, a 5-0 defeat to the Coyotes on February 12.

Islanders 7, Panthers 4 Newcomer Robert Reichel had a goal and two assists in his debut with New York and the Islanders scored two shorthanded goals in their home victory.

Igor Larionov had two goals and an assist and Larry Murphy marked his Detroit debut with a goal as the Red Wings won at home.

Reichel's linemate, Zigmund Palffy, scored twice and had an assist for the Islanders who are trying to get back into the Eastern Conference playoff race.

Devils 2, Capitals 2 (OT) Washington extended its home

Darren McCarty added a pair of assists for the Red Wings.

Table with 5 columns: Team, W, L, Pct, GB. Lists standings for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Central Division, Pacific Division, and Western Conference Midwest Division, North Division, and Pacific Division.

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NHL - Wednesday's results: N.Y. Islanders 7, Florida 4; Montreal 5, N.Y. Rangers 4; New Jersey 2, Washington 2; Philadelphia 6, Toronto 3; Detroit 4, Boston 1; Dallas 7, Phoenix 2; Calgary 4, San Jose 2; Edmonton 3, Tampa Bay 1; Anaheim 6, Los Angeles 2.

NCAA preview: Zwickler key to middle for Tar Heels

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. (AP) - Serge Zwickler hushed when he was told Dean Smith characterized his improvement at North Carolina as remarkable.

When Smith signed Wallace several years ago, it appeared Zwickler was destined to be a career backup. But Wallace was injured in the 1995 Atlantic Coast Conference title game, forcing Zwickler into the lineup during the NCAA tournament.

Zwickler said this week as he prepared for tonight's NCAA tournament game against California.

He ended up scoring 19 points in a first-round game against Murray State and the Tar Heels made it to the Final Four.

There may not be a more improved player in the nation over the last three seasons as the 7-foot-3, 273-pound senior, who has gone from a backup center with not much of a game to an important part of the Tar Heels' late-season run.

Then Wallace left for the NBA after his sophomore season. That meant Zwickler would be the man in the middle.

Zwickler is now a likely first-round draft. When he was being recruited, Smith saw something in him he looks for in all centers - good hands.

After a solid year last season, Zwickler made third team all-ACC in 1997 and has averaged 13.0 points and 8.0 rebounds during North Carolina's 14-game winning streak heading into the East Regional semifinals against the Golden Bears.

He won't admit it. He said today's Southeast Regional semifinal is between two underdogs, and called the 14th seed for the Mocs (24-10) "probably the greatest miscarriage of justice."

regular season with three straight losses. He frets that his talented-but-unpredictable team will get overconfident against Chattanooga and look ahead to a possible game against top-ranked Kansas for Providence's first trip to the Final Four since 1987.

nothing for granted against the Mocs. "Our players have to realize that we came off a great victory against Duke, but we have to play another great team that doesn't have quite the recognition factor but they've got great players," he said.

"There's no way I'm not going to play that game," said Vaughn, who had a 100-degree temperature Saturday when he scored 12 points and had nine assists as the Jayhawks beat Purdue to advance to the round of 16.

NCAA BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT REGIONAL SEMIFINALS. Table listing regional semifinals for East, Southeast, Midwest, and West regions with participating teams and scores.

The Mocs, only the second 14 seed to reach a regional semifinal, started the season 5-7 but have won seven straight, including tournament victories over third-seeded Georgia and No. 6 Illinois.

Both players were held out of practice before the team left for Birmingham on Wednesday. The game with Arizona will be a rematch of last year's regional semifinal in Dallas against the Wildcats, falling on exactly the same day a year later.

be, I'm not going to attempt to say because I don't know," Gillen said prior to his team's last practice before heading to Birmingham, Alabama. "But they are much better than a 14 seed, I know that."

Four since 1987, when Rick Pitino was coach. "Our guys make coffee nervously," Gillen said. "They're wonderful kids. I love them, but they are a challenge to coach."

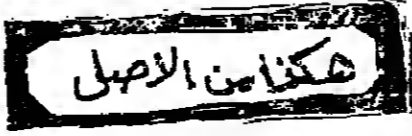
Jered Haase's back hurts. That only serves to take the Kansas guard's mind off his broken wrist. Point guard Jacques Vaughn has bronchitis.

Among the other award winners were Australia's "Woodies," Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge, as the Doubles Team of the Year; and Alex Corretja of Spain as the winner of the Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award.

Sampras, Graf nab top honors

MIAMI BEACH (AP) - Pete Sampras took home the Player of the Year Award for the fourth consecutive year and Steffi Graf took the women's trophy at the first joint ATP Tour and WTA Tour awards ceremonies.

"Martina Hingis and Britain's Tim Henman received the most improved players' awards. American Jennifer Capriati and Frenchman Stephane Simon won the Comeback Player of the Year, and Jimmy Connors took home the men's Senior Player of the Year award.



Hussein slams troops for not shooting killer

AMMAN (Reuter) - King Hussein has told his army that the Jordanian soldier who gunned down seven Israeli schoolgirls last week should have been shot dead on the spot. In a message sent to the armed forces before his departure for the United States today, the king also rebuked the soldier's superior officers for not preventing his rampage. "The atrocious incident... is one of the ugliest that we have lived (through)," the king said in a letter released yesterday. "It is a mark of shame on all who were directly responsible for the perpetrator, and all who saw him in his act and did not kill him immediately," he said. "If there is any good to be derived from his survival, then it may come from the inquiry that will uncover the causes that pushed him to render this distinguished service to all the enemies of the Jordanian armed forces," the king added. King Hussein's letter was the latest expression of shame for last week's shooting, but his remorse has not been shared by all Jordanians. Riot police had to set up a roadblock on Monday to prevent dozens of sympathizers of the soldier, Ahmed Daqamsa, from converging on his village in northern Jordan to pay respects to his family. They said Daqamsa had been spurred on by a "burning rage" with Israel and said they were campaigning for a fair trial. Villagers told reporters Daqamsa had become a local hero. Many Jordanians are disillusioned that a treaty with Israel signed in 1994 has failed to bring a promised "peace dividend" in terms of economic benefits. Plans to build on Jar Hama and a smaller withdrawal from the West Bank than Palestinians hoped for have increased hostility. Hussein warned the army to be vigilant to prevent "any treacherous or hateful agent from infiltrating our ranks to strike with our arms." "We do not betray people with whom we have made peace," said the king, who last week visited Israel to offer condolences to the families of the seven victims.

Ben-Porat backs use of polygraph for vetting senior civil servants

By BAT SHEVA TSUR

State Comptroller Miriam Ben-Porat yesterday came out in favor of the use of polygraph testing for senior civil servants who deal with classified material. The polygraph examinations conducted by the General Security Service are reliable and essential and do not affect basic civil rights, Ben-Porat said in a report presented yesterday at a special meeting of the Knesset State Control Committee. "If there is a need to take a polygraph, then everyone concerned has to be tested," she said. This was seen as criticism of the view of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein, who has consistently opposed polygraph tests and who refused to take one before his appointment. Rubinstein refused to comment on the report. On Tuesday the High Court of Justice is to hear a petition on the subject. The use of polygraphs also is being discussed by a public committee that is expected to present its findings shortly. "There should be no discrimination between different persons on

The 'truth' about the lie detector

By TOM GROSS

Former American cop Doug Williams believes lie detectors are "an insidious Orwellian instrument of torture." "Governments are using a machine that is unreliable and people are being hurt every day," he says. "If you flunk the test you may be fired, your reputation will be ruined, and you may face criminal charges." Williams claims to have taught over 10,000 people to "sting" the polygraph since he quit the Oklahoma City police in 1979. "My clients come from all over the world," he says in an E-mail interview. "At least a dozen over the past year have been from Israel." During a six-year stint as a police polygrapher, Williams says he figured out simple methods to beat the lie detector. "I learned how to control every tracing on the chart. After that it was a matter of teaching people when to react and when to control a reaction." "A reaction that indicates deception is an increase in blood pressure, an erratic breathing pattern, and an increase in sweat activity on your hand. If you have a reaction like this you will be called a liar. There is often no appeal from this decision, even though in many tribunals or other evidence need be offered. "I maintain that any number of innocent stimuli - fear, rage, embarrassment, nervousness - can and do cause this exact same reaction, and many honest people are branded as liars."

this issue," Ben-Porat said yesterday. "[The examination] does not affect any civil liberties. If we felt this was so, we would appeal to the legislature to comment. We are not doing so." Senior civil servants who handle classified material have a responsibility towards the state and it has to be ensured that they are thoroughly vetted, she said. "The right of the public in this case has priority over the right of the individual," she said. Ben-Porat cautioned that the polygraph cannot be considered a scientific tool that stands by itself, saying, "It is not an infallible lie-detector." She stressed that it must be operated properly and its results assessed by experienced personnel. "I want to stress that this is just one of the tools used. There is no foundation to believing that it is scientific," she said. But, she noted, it is an important aid with a high degree of reliability. "I can't say that when I was a judge I didn't make mistakes. Sometimes someone looked so calm, but perhaps his heart was pounding. That the polygraph can

tell us, not the judge." The report, which examined thousands of cases, took two years to collate. It reveals the test has a high degree of accuracy, said committee chairman MK Ran Cohen (Meretz), to whom Ben-Porat presented it. One example of reliability could be seen by the fact that 95% of those proven to be lying by the polygraph later admitted that they were not telling the truth, the report noted. Ben-Porat said that polygraph tests were used by the GSS, the police, the Mossad, the IDF, and private companies.

WEATHER section with maps of Israel and surrounding regions showing weather conditions and forecasts.



Back in action President Ezer Weizman waves good-bye yesterday as he leaves Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem section, where he underwent hip surgery last week. (Brian Hender)

New Jordanian PM expected to improve ties with Israel

AMMAN (AP) - King Hussein's selection of Abdul-Salam Majali as prime minister is aimed at improving ties with Israel and speeding up economic reforms. Majali, 71, a tough retired army general and a close confidant of the king, negotiated and signed Jordan's peace treaty with Israel in 1994. As prime minister from May 1993 to January 1995, he cobbled together overwhelming parliament endorsement for the treaty despite legislators' hesitation over dealing with a long-time enemy. Today, Majali faces a fence-meeting chore with Israel. Relations between the two nations have soured because of tension between the Palestinians and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Jordan also has strongly criticized the government's decision to go ahead with building at Jar Hama. Labib Kamhawi, a political science professor at Jordan University, said yesterday that Majali will take a softer line with Israel than his predecessor, Abdul-Karim Kabariti. "There will be a softened policy toward Israel and Arab neighbors because Majali is not as confrontational as the former prime minister," Kamhawi said. Kabariti, 47, was sacked in an unexpected cabinet shakeup Wednesday, just two days before King Hussein's trip to the United States for talks on the peace process. Kabariti took office in February 1996. King Hussein, in his letter of dismissal, told Kabariti he had not gone far enough with administra-

tive reforms. In an unusual public criticism of a premier, Hussein also accused Kabariti of catering only to "your image in the media." Kabariti had pushed through unpopular economic reforms, such as eliminating state subsidies on wheat and fodder, which set off an outbreak of violent protests last August in poor areas in southern Jordan. As he improved ties with Gulf Arab states, he also damaged relations with Iraq. Jordan's one-time ally and largest trading partner, turning the business community against him. Crown Prince Hassan, the king's brother and Jordan's economic strategist, had publicly rebuked Kabariti's stance on Iraq as "noxious" to Jordan's economy, which is straitened by \$6.3 billion in foreign debt. The Jordanian daily Ad-Dustour said yesterday that Kabariti's ouster also may have stemmed from his mishandling of the crisis that arose over the killing of seven Israeli schoolgirls by a Jordanian soldier at Naharayim last week. Government officials said Kabariti arrived late at the slaying scene and then bitterly attacked Netanyahu on the phone for blaming the shooting on a harsh letter sent by King Hussein to Netanyahu.

Netanyahu. In appointing Majali, Hussein urged swift administrative and economic reforms and asked him to oversee "free and honest" parliament elections. The new 24-member cabinet is dominated by liberal politicians and technocrats, including five holdovers from the previous government. There is one woman in the cabinet. Majali, a physician, has held several ministerial portfolios in previous governments, including health and education. From a prominent family from the southern city of Kerak, he also served as personal adviser to the king in 1989.

Leah Rabin raps Right in book

By URIEL HERLMAN

Leah Rabin delivers harsh criticism against Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, President Ezer Weizman, and the right-wing establishment for fomenting the political climate that led to her husband's assassination, in her new book Rabin: Our Life, His Legacy, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons and due out April 1. In a combination of journal entries, private letters, and personal narrative, Rabin recalls her life with her husband and, while lamenting his death, wonders whether his legacy was in vain. In an excerpt published in Yediot Aharonot, Rabin writes, "Yitzhak, my dearest, they took you from me. From us... The business left unfinished by his death cries out for his

wisdom and perspective... his clear head, his firm hand, and his pure heart." In her harsh judgment of Netanyahu, Rabin blames him for presiding over rallies before the assassination at which Yitzhak Rabin was called a traitor and depicted on posters as a Nazi. Unforgiving toward Weizman, Rabin comes down on him for his activities against her husband's bid for the premiership in April 1974. Weizman, then a Likud MK, leaked a story to the press about her husband allegedly having had a nervous breakdown in the days before the Six Day War. The book also includes a tirade against "the rabbis, not teachers, at Bar-Ilan University, who provided the inspiration for the behavior that led to the murder."

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Table titled 'AROUND THE WORLD' with columns for city, low, high, and forecast.

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